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14 January 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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COUNTRY'S CONCEPT OF 'STEADFASTNESS, CONFRONTATION' VIEWED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1359, 19 Nov 82 pp 28-29

/Article: "Algeria Rewrites Steadfastness and Confrontation"/

/Text/ At a time when there is much talk about the breakup of the steadfastness and confrontation front, its reason for existence having disappeared with the invasion of Lebanon and the associated circumstances and after the Fes conference managed to draft an Arab plan upon which all Arab countries--with the exception of the Jamahariya which was absent--reached agreement, and at a time when the Algerian position is still giving rise to many contradictory speculations and various questions because of a certain ambiguity arising from Algeria's continued adherence, at least from the media standpoint, to the statements of the steadfastness and confrontation front and its presence at the Fes summit where it was named a member of the seven-member committee and participated in the first collective Arab delegation to the United States which was chaired by the Moroccan monarch...

At this time, in the midst of these speculations and questions, a series of weekly statements published by the official newspaper AL-SHA'B assume particular importance, not only because they allude to an explanation of Algeria's understanding of steadfastness and confrontation but, primarily, because the writer is Dr Modieddine Amimour, a member of the Central Committee of the FLN and the press counselor to President Chadli Bendjedid and, before him, President Houari Boumedienne.

While the writer tried to disavow any official capacity, both by using a pen name (M. Din) and by stressing the personal character of the writing and the analysis, his articles constitute an important document at a time when Algerian leaders speak less and explain their positions less than the leaders of other nations of the world.

Dr Amimour some time earlier wrote another series of articles to respond to the direct or indirect criticisms of certain segments of the steadfastness and confrontation front of Algeria's position and its negative aspect vis-a-vis the seige of Beirut.

Therefore, the second series of articles, entitled "Between Steadfastness, Rejection and Collusion," goes beyond a defense of the Algerian position to a state of implied combative criticism with the goal of explaining and defining the meaning of steadfastness in the Algerian concept as if Algeria now found it objectively necessary to point out the import and parameters of the slogan of steadfastness which had imposed itself on the Arab political dictionary in conjunction with confrontation since the Tripoli conference which was held following al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

In the introduction to the series, the writer relates an odd tale involving the different, and at times contradictory, usage of the same phrase in Algeria and the Arab East. It seems that a shaykh of al-Azhar asked an Algerian vendor about the price of a watermelon one day during Ramadan. When the Algerian vendor replied, the shaykh stretched out his hand toward the melon, saying: "In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate." However, the vendor blew up and said, "Why are you putting yourself above us. If you don't like the watermelon, don't buy it." The shaykh was surprised but his surprise vanished when I explained to him that in Algeria the invocation "In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate" is used as a polite phrase for protecting oneself from evil, while the vendor found someone to explain to him that the phrase, either spoken openly or to oneself, is a natural opener for any action and that it has no connotation of warding off evil.

The Algerian president's counselor commented on this tale by saying: "I used to recall it each time I picked up my pen to say something right and proper which needed to be said and then would break my pen and tear up the paper because some would flaunt their dogma at the same time using the same or similar words but with just the reverse meaning and with a different background and a different goal." So, he began the first article in the series with the following sentence: "Today my patience is exhausted. Today I decided to speak out and to say what I think right even if some people echo the same statement and mean nothing by it. Perhaps that hesitation in itself will chart out for the reader a map of the psychological state I am experiencing while writing these lines after having spent days and nights following the comments and statements which have formed a coffin on which is enscribed "the Steadfastness Countries" which have begun a collective hurling of stones blending honest questioning, genuine anger and real bitterness with political hypocrisy at its ugliest.

Until these lines were written, the writer had not spoken the truth which was anticipated by many commentators, that is, until the fifth excerpt in the series which stops at the October 1973 war. This is because the writer wanted to undertake a historical re-examination or, in fact, he wanted to rewrite history with regard to the concept of steadfastness which was used for the first time, according to the writer, at the 1973 Rabat conference by President Houari Boumedienne when he said: "The Arab steadfastness began in the wake of the June 1967 war."

It is that war the writer takes as a starting point for writing his history. It must be said that despite the historical stamp which almost overrides the focus of the articles and their caption, they are filled with a great deal of historic disclosure narrated by a man who experienced the events as an insider, involving the contacts between the two late presidents, 'Abd-al-Nasir and Houari Boumedienne, which were pervaded by a certain amount of tension at that time, and the difficult nature of the talks Boumedienne held with the Soviets during the June war, talks which lasted a whole night during which the Soviets stressed that the Arabs had not fought and had run from a confrontation and during which the Algerians focussed on the dimensions of the conspiracy and the open collusion of the United States and its limitless support for Israel.

The writer also brings up Boumedienne's second trip to Moscow and the violent argument which flared up with the Soviet president since Boumedienne felt that ending the state of war would mean for all practical purposes capitulation to the American-Israeli terms. When the Soviet president inquired: "What does it matter whether or not the Israeli flag transits the Suez Canal?", Boumedienne replied sternly: "Then in this even, tractors would be more useful to us than tanks." Dr Amimour notes that the first steadfastness front in Arab history which had formed around the confrontation states during the 1967 war had a life, as a group, of only 2 months and that the Khartoum conference which witnessed a sort of Arab unanimity proclaimed its end (Syria was absent and Boumedienne did not attend in person).

Perhaps the most important political indicator which emerged in this series is the Algerian emphasis on the Palestinian character of the issue and on the right of the Palestinians to adopt their independent decision at a time when the quarrel is intensifying over the Palestinian card and, in fact, over the PLO itself. According to the author: "The fact that the issue is Palestinian first and Arab second is not an academic argument because reality points out a quarrel between the two attitudes. The first speaks of the Arab character of the issue above all else. Since Arabism is embodied in regimes and countries, giving priority to the Arab character means that all Arabs have the right to decide on the issue. However, we come closer to daily reality to say that it belongs to the Arab regimes which have the qualifications for leading roles."

The Algerian president's counselor points out that the Algerian position that the issue is more Palestinian in character than Arab is not new. He also points out that this ambiguity in turn is not new on the Arab scene since, as the writer puts it: "It used to appear in the 60's as if it were an attack and a challenge to the Arab leadership and a diminution of their importance as if they were not even in the cards." In this regard, he tells the following story: "In 1966, President Boumedienne visited Egypt at the head of an important Algerian delegation. Within the framework of this visit a number of senior members of the delegation flew to the Gaza Strip aboard a chartered Egyptian aircraft on an official visit to the strip which was under Egyptian administration. The chairman of the delegation was Maj Chadli Bendjedid, commander of the second military district. During a public meeting, a number of speakers talked about the Palestine issue and about the

hopes pinned on the late Egyptian president, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. It then came the turn of the chairmen of the Algerian delegation to speak. He spoke with the frankness of a fighter about the Algerian experience, saying, **inter alia**: "The Algerian revolution triumphed because it was an expression of the will of the Algerian people who took up arms to regain their rights. The sole leader of the revolution was the people. A revolution that allows itself to be contained or whose hopes are pinned on anything other than the people's will can not be victorious and the fate of the Palestinian issue is in the hands of the people of Palestine, no one else."

In his talk the Algerian fighter used no rhetorical devices implying expressions of courtesy or deference and the reaction was an embodiment of the concept of Arab action, at that time at least, on one of the specific levels which interacted daily with Palestinian affairs. Perhaps the great enthusiasm shown by the Palestinians who were at the meeting over what they had heard from the Algerian official was one thing that annoyed some of the brothers. Accordingly, the Egyptian officials who were accompanying President Chadli Bendjedid and his colleagues showed their annoyance in a very refined manner, perhaps because what they had heard was different from what they had been accustomed to hearing since 1948, and they did not make a single comment.

Just as the reception had been warm on their arrival, the send off was cool upon departure. The official aircraft had disappeared and the members of the delegation took whatever places they could find aboard a passenger aircraft which took them to Cairo as ordinary passengers. There was no one at Cairo airport to meet them and Chadli Bendjedid and his colleagues had to take a taxi to their official quarters at al-Qubbah Palace. Because taxis could not enter al-Qubbah Palace, the Algerian delegation had to walk the distance--more than a kilometer--from the entrance to the main building. One needs no imagination to visualize the type and amount of angry words being spoken in the Algerian dialect all the way from the Gaza Strip to the main building at al-Qubbah Palace.

Naturally this reaction reached 'Abd-al-Nasir. My friend, who experienced this tale firsthand, says that at the official reception which was given by 'Abd-al-Nasir in honor of the delegation, Chadli Bendjedid was seated near an important figure of the Egyptian regime "who as I remember was Husayn al-Shafi'i, vice president of the Republic. My attention was drawn, "my friend says," to the late Egyptian president and I noticed him gesturing with his eyes to the senior Egyptian official who apparently was aware of what had happened urgently asking him to engage in conversation with the Algerian guest who was seated next to him and the senior Egyptian official began trying to use all his skill to break the ice."

From the Palestinian character of the issue which he did not intend to be a history of the 60's, and in fact the emphasis currently is on the freedom and independent nature of the Palestinian decision, the writer moves on to a reference to the popular war of liberation which was the basis of the radical Algerian position in the 1960's which in turn led to coolness in relations with the late president, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, shortly before his death. The

writer makes the point that the issue of popular liberation is considered vital in the struggle with the enemy. However, he intentionally does not stop with the Vietnamese war of liberation or the Algerian war but focusses on the British confrontation with the Hitler threat, whether in popular and civil defense or in the economic confrontation which the counselor to the Algerian president views as the cornerstone of the Arab popular war of liberation, using the slogan "Saving a dinar protects an Arab, it protects yourself and your family; give to your nation an effort commensurate with the pay you receive." He says this on the basis that this is the minimum which will lead to steadfastness based on rejection of the fait accompli. He gives a theoretical definition of steadfastness as "a static political position that through its constancy and perseverance creates a state of collective solidarity leading to the dynamism of confrontation which represents the upper limit of steadfastness as rejection represents the lower limit."

Perhaps Dr Amimour's most important conclusion is his statement: "In all this, the basic premise and foundation of steadfastness is the position of the primary nucleus embodied in the first line of confrontation with the enemy. To the same extent that growth of dynamic steadfastness leads to support of the primary nucleus, any shortcoming on the level of this nucleus will have a negative effect on the process of broad solidarity for which steadfastness acts as the catalyst. The nucleus of steadfastness is the valve to the pipe which either ensures the arrival of the inflammable liquid or shuts off its flow."

It is clear that this statement carries profound political indications. It was nevertheless shaped in a mold closer to revolutionism, metaphor and symbols than to a clear political position. This was acknowledged by the writer when at the beginning of the fifth chapter (the last chapter, where we stop) he pointed out that he had been confronted with observations and criticisms involving the historical mold surrounding the central issue and almost obscuring it, being directed at the character of those persons who lived the events. He acknowledges that these observations are true but the cross section of characters is broad. Although the series is not finished, Dr Amimour, for reasons of official policy, may not respond candidly on the public level. More than this, he does not want to be a magician pulling a rabbit out of his hat or to have his articles be a detective story with a killer and victim and police and a clever inspector on the order of Hercule Poirot.

8389

CSO: 4504/83

DETENTION OF COPT POPE SHENUDAH EXAMINED

Case Documents Demanded

NC041524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] The Egyptian Council of State has given the Egyptian Government a last respite ending on 25 January to submit its record [asanidiha] in the case of Pope Shinudah, the head of the Coptic Church in Egypt, whom departed President Anwar as-Sadat sentenced to compulsory residence [iqamah jabriyah] in 1981.

The defense panel demanded that the case be held in abeyance and that the decision detaining Pope Shinudah be cancelled.

Copt Pope Shinudah Cables Mubarak

NC051722 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)--President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received the following cable from Pope Shinudah III on the occasion of the new year: I wish you and Egypt under your leadership a happy and blessed year. I recall that last year's harvest was plentiful for you and recorded many shining landmarks for you. You have done a great deal for Egypt, and Egypt is expecting much from you. We are confident that God will strengthen you and help you complete your mission, to which every Egyptian is looking with love and confidence. I extend greetings to you and convey greetings from the Copts to you and to all my Muslim brothers in Egypt and abroad. May God keep you a successful president of our country and may God do good through you and keep Egypt strong and proud.

Release Called For

PM041649 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 22 Dec 82 p 5

[Article by Samir Tadrus, an editor of AL-AKHBAR newspaper: "Release of Pope Shinudah Is a National Issue"]

[Excerpts] As-Sadat's decision to dismiss Pope Shinudah III and to detain him in a monastery was one of the 5 September decision by which he tried to cover up the failure of his various policies--through creating a state of moral terror against the Egyptian people.

Since the release of political detainees began in November 1981, the administrative justice court's ordering of a halt to the implementation of the September decisions, and the reappearances of the opposition papers, much has been written about the reasons for the detention of politicians and members of Islamic groups. But there remained one particular group the reasons for whose detention are still unknown to the public. Nor are the reasons given by the government for the release of some members of this group understood. Some 8 bishops and 24 priests as well as a number of Christians still do not know the reasons for which they were sent to jail and for their subsequent release. In fact the bishops and priests that have been released are still banned from performing their religious functions in the posts to which they were appointed. This has created the feeling that these people have no right to be cared for by anybody. Such a phenomenon, if allowed to continue, will lead to dire consequences in the country.

The opposition papers have demanded the release of the Christian detainees from the standpoint that all detainees should be released. This is quite right. The papers also reported the judicial case for rescinding the decision dismissing Pope Shinudah and they published readers' letters in support of rescinding the decision. But the papers did not try to deal with this phenomenon of the arrest of a large number of Christian religious men for the first time in Egypt's contemporary history, and of their release without any evident reason. [passage omitted.]

During the 11 weeks I spent with those priests and brothers in Al-Marj Prison or Wadi An-Natrun Prison I had many discussions with them and heard their views and about what they were subjected to when they were arrested.

These discussions and stories continued to trouble my conscience because I was unable to write about them in view of the lack of material evidence in my hands.

However, the opportunity came when the state commissar concluded his report on Judicial Case No 934 demanding that As-Sadat's decision dismissing Pope Shinudah be rescinded. This is in view of the fact that the state commissar's report, which came to the conclusion that As-Sadat's decision was a "blatant violation of the law" and "involved a gross usurpation of power, which makes it a decision of no consequence," dealt in detail with two particular points which were raised by the government's lawyer:

1. Article 74 of the Constitution.
2. Reports of the state security intelligence.

The state commissar's report regarding Article 74 of the Constitution agrees with the administrative justice court's verdict of February 1982 to stop the implementation of the 5 September decisions. [passage omitted]

The charges contained in the state security report against Pope Shinudah were four:

First, jeopardizing national unity and social peace: this was evident in the fact that Pope Shinudah used to urge the Christians "to take part in political conferences and visit government and popular locations in order to prove a Christian presence in them."

Second, inciting hatred for the existing regime. [passage omitted]

Third, lending a political character to the pope's post and exploiting religion for the attainment of political gains: this is confirmed, according to the intelligence report, by the fact that on 5 January 1977 the pope addressed a speech to Cairo priests urging them to expedite the drafting of a unified personal status law for the Christian communities in order that it might be submitted to the legislative authorities.

Fourth, provocation in that on 13 November 1972 [date as published] he made a speech in the cathedral on the first anniversary of assuming the papal post in which he condemned the al-khankah [racial clashes] incidents. [passage omitted]

When the Az-Zawiyah Al-Hamra incidents occurred in June 1981 they coincided with the weekly political seminar in the bar association. On that day the late Doyen 'abd al-'Aziz ash-Shurbaji made a serious speech openly accusing Minister of Interior An-Nabawi Isma'il of being responsible for these events and exposed the government's plan to cause sectarian division in the country in order to cover up the failure of Camp David policy and the government's foresaking of national principles.

Earlier, on 15 May 1980, President as-Sadat made a serious address to the people in which he tried to create division between Copts and Muslims. He accused the pope of trying to separate upper Egypt from the rest of the country and create a Coptic state with Asyut as its capital. But the Egyptian people were aware of the hideous plan of the man talking to them.

Now after events in Lebanon, Israel is steadily progressing in its plan to divide the Middle East into statelets.

As-Sadat was true to himself when he described Begin as his "dear friend" and when he said that Israel is implementing the Camp David Treaty with honor and sincerity. Yes, it is the honor and sincerity on which they agreed in order to divide the area into religious statelets.

The decision to dismiss Pope Shinudah and the arrest of bishops and priests was part of the plan to incite sectarian division. Many people participated in this plan.

The road to this plan was paved by the issuing of disreputable laws, such as the law of ethics which was used to serve the plan. It was an irony of

fate that some of those who took part in issuing this law became its first victims. [passage omitted]

Pope Shinudah is, for all the Copts, the official representative and spiritual leader of the church. His remaining in his present situation raises many questions.

Finally, I would like to say a word to all the Copts:

Yes, do take part in all the political conferences and visit the government and popular locations. Do not pay attention to the state security intelligence reports because they only condemn those who participate in political action, be they Muslims or Christians. This is because we are Copts but are also Egyptian citizens enjoying the full rights of citizenship and who reject the dividing of the Egyptian people. Only through political action can we expose those who are seeking to divide the Egyptian people into "first class" and "second class" citizens.

On this basis I would say that the release of Pope Shinudah III and his reinstatement on his throne with his full powers is a national cause.

CSO: 4500/51

SECURITY COURT POSTPONES AL-JIHAD TRIAL

NC051710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)--At the request of the defense, the supreme state security court today decided to postpone until 19 February consideration of the Al-Jihad Organization's case in which 302 persons are accused and to continue to imprison the defendants.

At its session, which convened under the presidency of counsellor 'Abd al-Ghaffar Muhammad Ahmad, the court rejected the contest on the invalidity of the order referring the defendants to the court and the contest on the invalidity of the orders imprisoning the defendants. The orders were issued by the public prosecution in accordance with Law No 162 of the year 1958. The court also rejected the contest demanding the cancellation of the orders imprisoning the defendants, the contest on the invalidity of their arrest measures and the contest by defendant Mamduh Diyab Muhammad demanding that the order imprisoning him be cancelled.

The court further decided to include some of the contests by the defense panel to the case. They are the contest that it is impermissible to consider the case of the defendants who were previously tried in the case of the assassination of the departed President Anwar as-Sadat at the supreme military court, because the same crimes were decided in this case. The court also decided to include the contest on the invalidity of the investigation and interrogation measures for contravening the provisions of the criminal measures law.

The court decided as well to include the contest on the invalidity of the measures of interrogating defendant Ayman Muhammad Rabi' and the contest on the validity of the measures because they were issued as a result of coercion or threat of coercion.

At today's session the court decided to postpone a decision on the application to summon the defense witnesses for questioning until the court completes hearing the prosecution witnesses provided that the defense specify the events in which testimony is required and their relation to the case. The court also decided to ban all audio and video recordings except by permit from the court on the basis of an application explaining the justifications for the recordings. It further decided to include an official copy of the minutes of the session of the trial of President as-Sadat's assassination case before the

supreme military court, provided that a complete copy be handed over to the appointed and delegated lawyers except the lawyers who had previously received it from the military court and who defended the accused who were previously tried in the case of the assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat.

The court also decided to delegate a sufficient number of forensic doctors to sign the medical report relating to the defendants to find out whether they are suffering from any injuries and their cause, and whether they occurred from the date of the arrest of each of the defendants and the completion of his interrogation.

The court permitted the delegated doctors to hear the defendants' statements about their injuries and to acquaint themselves with all the necessary documents provided that they submit reports in a month's time, starting today. A list of the names of the 260 defendants who have asked that they be medically examined has been attached to this decision.

The court permitted the lawyers to produce official copies of the cases and documents that they had previously asked to be permitted to present to the court provided that this is done in a week, starting today. They include the cases in which some of the defendants were previously accused and the minutes of the investigation conducted with some of the defendants at military intelligence. They also include an official copy of the minutes of the People's Assembly session which was devoted to the discussion of the amendment of the Constitution and a copy of the minutes of the interrogation of some of the defendants before the socialist prosecutor.

The supreme state security court explained the reasons for its decisions. It said that the contest submitted by the defense panel claiming the invalidity of the public prosecution's decision to refer these defendants to the court is itself invalid because the measures adopted by the prosecution in this regard were in accordance with the decision issued by the president of the republic promulgating law No 162 of the year 1958, regarding the state of emergency and the formation of the state security courts, the method of their formation and the limits of their jurisdictions as well as the procedures to be followed at them.

Concerning the contest of the invalidity of the orders issued by the public prosecution imprisoning the defendants, the court explained that their imprisonment was in accordance with the decision of the temporary president of the republic No 560 of the year 1981 declaring the state of emergency. The temporary president of the republic issued his decision after legally assuming the power of his post.

Regarding the defense's claim about the invalidity of the investigation measures and the confessions of the defendants because they were the subject of material and moral coercion [ikrah maddi wa ma'nawi], the court pointed out that the general rule is that the court itself must interrogate the defendants referred to it during the session and that it must not be content with the preliminary investigations. Moreover, it can automatically adopt all methods that it considers will lead to learning the truth and ensuring the soundness of the evidence submitted to it. On this basis, the court decided to sign the medical report on the defendants whose medical records were not attached to the investigation minutes.

BAHRAINI PAPER ASSAILS U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN MIDEAST

GF220456 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 21 Dec 82 pp 1, 4

[Untitled editorial]

[Excerpts] No country has been rewarded for its aggressive inclination against another people as the United States is currently being rewarded in the Arab region. Since the signing of the hated Camp David Accords, the United States has continuously been directing the Zionist regime to attack and smash all the great goals and the legitimate rights of our Arab nation. [passage omitted]

If the U.S. presence in the region were to take place at the expense of the power of another superpower or for goals dealing with the balance of power in the world then this would be justifiable inspite of reservations on this matter. But the U.S. presence will certainly be reinforced only at the expense of great national goals, and the goal of the liberation of Palestine in particular. The U.S. inclination to intensify its military presence in the region--in light of its policies that are totally biased toward Israel and are antagonist implicitly and explicitly to the national aspirations of our nation and of the people of Palestine--has many hazards that will all be reflected in escalating tensions and international disputes in addition to obstructing the independent Arab liberation procession.

Following a long series of bitter experiences which have accompanied U.S.-Arab relations, our nation looks forward to re-evaluating the U.S. role in the region and to reducing it in a way that is proportional with its impact on the future of our peoples. Let various circles stop covering the U.S. aggression with the illusion of friendship or with giving the United States all the cards of the issue.

CSO: 4400/140

BRIEFS

BUDGET UP IN 1983--Inflation in Bahrain next year is expected to be 4 percent, the same recorded during 1982. This is revealed by Bahrain's Ministry of Finance and National Economy in the annual budget. Almost half of Bahrain's 1983 budget will be spent on development projects, according to Arabic press sources. The total 1983 budget will be BD656 million, up 17 percent on this year's figure of BD506 million. [Excerpt] [Excerpt] [GF290551 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 29 Dec 82 p 1]

BUDGET INCREASE--Manama, 25 Dec (WAKH)--Finance and National Economy Ministry Under Secretary 'Isa Burashid has told the Bahraini paper AL-ADWA' that Bahrain's budget for 1983 will be 656 million dinars, which is an increase of 17 percent over 506 million dinar budget of 1982. He added that the government has allocated 325 million dinars for development projects and 320 million dinars for standing expenses. He also indicated that allocations for the housing sector will reach 45 million dinars in 1983. [Text] [GF251258 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Dec 82]

ALUMINUM MARKETING COMPANY--Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, development and industry minister and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Dr Ghazi al-Qusaybi, Saudi industry and electricity minister and acting health minister, attended signing ceremony for the contract to establish the Bahraini-Saudi Aluminum Marketing Company (BALCO), at the Regency Intercontinental Hotel. On the Bahrain Government's behalf, the contract was signed by Shaykh 'Isa ibn 'Abdallah al Khalifah, development and industry ministry under secretary, and on Saudi Arabia's behalf it was signed by 'Abd al-'Aziz az-Zamil, deputy chairman of the board of directors and managing director of the Saudi Company for Basic Industries, (SABIC). The company will market Bahrain and Saudi Arabian shares in the Bahrain Aluminum Company (ALBA) production, which 135,000 tons per year. [Excerpts] [GF031856 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 3 Dec 82 pp 1,4]

LOAN TO GULF PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY--An agreement was signed yesterday between the Gulf Petrochemical Industry Company and 39 major Arab and foreign banks, whereby the banks will grant the company a loan of \$300 million. The agreement was signed by the company's chairman of its board of directors, Dr Tawfiq 'abdar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, and by the banks' directors. [Excerpts] [GF031856 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 3 Dec 82 pp 1, 4]

CSO: 4400/140

SPAIN SEIZES SMUGGLED WEAPONS DESTINED FOR IRAN

JN221143 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Madrid, 22 Dec (INA)—The Spanish authorities yesterday confiscated quantities of Argentine weapons at Madrid airport intended to be smuggled into Iran. The INA correspondent in Madrid today said that the weapons, which comprise pistols and machine guns weighed about 12 tons and were on board an Argentine jumbo jet which had arrived from Buenos Aires. These weapons were to be taken to Iran illegally by an Iranian airliner which was waiting at the airport.

The correspondent added that Spanish customs officials noticed, while unloading the weapons which were contained in special boxes, from the Argentine airliner to the Iranian airliner that these boxes had no licence to be moved from one airline to another. The officials then opened the boxes and found the weapons.

The INA correspondent said that the Spanish authorities had asked the Iranian authorities for an official explanation.

(Mehdi Ikrami), Iranian regime's embassy, met several Spanish government officials last night. The correspondent said that the Spanish authorities will today begin a thorough investigation of the quantity of the confiscated weapons and the attempt to smuggle them through Spanish territories.

CSO: 4400/128

OIL MINISTER RETURNS HOME, MAKES STATEMENT

JN221035 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Dec 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)--Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi returned here today after leading Iraq's delegation to the 66th ordinary OPEC meeting, which concluded its work in Vienna on Monday.

In a statement to INA, the Iraqi minister said that the ministerial conference came at a time when OPEC was subjected to the greatest possible pressures and challenges due to the economic policies of the consuming countries on the one hand and to the production and pricing policies of the non-OPEC oil producers on the other. He added that some OPEC member states adopted policies serving their short-term interests at the expense of the organization's aims and the present and future interests of all its member states by exceeding the production quotas adopted by the ministerial conference in March this year and by giving direct and indirect discounts. He pointed out that this action jeopardized OPEC's pricing structure, threatened the member states' interests, prevented OPEC from attaining the objectives of the resolutions adopted in the ministerial conference in March and both perplexed and weakened the international oil market.

The minister indicated that most of the member states were aware of the serious situation and the need to adopt appropriate measures in order to uphold the OPEC pricing structure, preserve the interests of the member states and restore stability to the oil market. Therefore, he said, the official meeting was preceded by intensive meetings among the member ministers in an attempt to narrow differences in viewpoints as a prelude to the adoption of the desired resolutions that could achieve the organization's objectives.

He pointed out that although all member states stressed the need to fix the total OPEC production for the year 1983 at between 18 and 18.5 million barrels a day, the irresponsible stands of Iran, Libya and others and their insistence on increasing their quotas at the expense of the other member states foiled any attempt to reach agreement on fixed production quotas within this ceiling despite the several attempts made by most of the delegations, including the Iraqi delegation which played a positive

role in these attempts out of its concern for OPEC unity and both short-term and long-term interests.

The Iraqi oil minister stressed that the conclusion of the conference without reaching a comprehensive agreement which could enhance the OPEC position and pricing structure will undoubtedly further weaken and confuse the international oil market and inflict severe harm on the interests of both the producing and consumer countries.

He stressed that the stands of the above-mentioned member states only aim at weakening OPEC and threatening its existence. He added that despite the results, which were disappointing to most member states and which were not surprising to the Iraqi delegation, agreement was reached on fixing the production ceiling at 18.5 million barrels a day. The member states also pledged to do their best to back the current pricing structure.

The oil minister expressed Iraq's hope that some member states will soon realize the consequences of their stands which stem from a narrow concept of matters and become aware of the harm inflicted on OPEC and regional interests in the near and far future so that the ministerial conference can as soon as possible unify its ranks, overcome its present crisis, preserve its unity and maintain the interests of the member states.

He added that the conferees discussed some administrative and financial issues and adopted the appropriate resolutions. The conferees also approved the organization's budget for 1983 and decided to hold the next ordinary meeting in Helsinki on 18 July 1983.

CSO: 4400/128

BRIEFS

SHI'ITE LEADER'S TOUR--Doha, 26 Dec (WAKH)--His eminence Shaykh 'Ali Kashif al-Ghita', the religious authority of holy an-Najaf City, has stated that his current tour of a number of the Arab and Islamic states is aimed at uniting the Arab and Islamic ranks in these circumstances that our Arab nation is passing through amid a colonial and missionary cultural invasion that is sapping its strength and shredding its unity. Shaykh Kashif al-Ghita', in a statement to QNA, expressed hope that his tour which covered Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar so far will help eliminate the obstacles, misfortunes and plots that besiege the Islamic nation and hold it back from the march of civilization, a thing that led to its division and disfragmentation. Shaykh Kashif al-Ghita' arrived in Doha on Thursday evening leading an Iraqi religious delegation on a visit to the state of Qatar that will last several days. [Text] [GF261710 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 Dec 82]

CSO: 4400/128

HASTY ALIGNMENT ACCEPTANCE OF REAGAN PLAN QUESTIONED

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Oct 82 p 5

/Article by Me'ir Bar'eli: "Yes, But"/

/Text/ The Labor Party's continued enthusiastic support for the Reagan plan may win the award for the biggest mistake the party has made in years. There is some doubt as to whether the Reagan plan is a plan at all--it might better be called a suggestion--and there is further doubt as to whether Reagan's name should be attached to the plan, since he adopted plans suggested by others, after he rid himself of the pro-Israeli stumbling block, Alexander Haig. The former Secretary of State would have tried to block a plan or a suggestion of any kind harmful to the Likud government, which conducted the war in Lebanon for him.

The two major contenders for the heart and soul of the Israeli people had, to say the least, exaggerated reactions to Reagan's speech and letter to Menahem Begin. The similarity between the two receptions does not, however, lose a thing despite the fact that they are diametrically opposed to one another.

The Likud's immediate rejection of the plan only served to strengthen the negative points of Reagan's speech and letter, and the Alignment's reaction served the same purpose, despite itself. Both extreme, emotional responses play into each other's hands internally, and externally they play together against Israel's enemies.

History records a similar event. Thirty years ago, in the United States, a radical conservative candidate, Senator Taft, fought for the Republican nomination. The basic assumption was that he had a good chance of winning the nomination, but that he would never win the presidential election (in the end, the Republicans chose Eisenhower who went on to win the presidency). While Taft was conducting his campaign, there were struggles among several candidates within the Democratic Party. In the end, Stevenson, the choice of the intellectuals, won the nomination but lost the general election. One of the candidates adopted a radical, international platform, diametrically opposed to that of Taft. A political analyst working with one of the American newspapers said at the time that only against a democratic candidate like Stevenson would Taft's candidacy be preferred...

If the readers asks who is the Israeli Taft and who is our parallel to his conservative rival, I would answer: Take your choice. They are all the same. The Likud's position with regard to Reagan's speech is one which Israel cannot afford to take toward the United States. Even the radicals among our enemies know that the real policy struggle takes place in Washington. Both sides in the Middle East conflict must try to make the other side say "no" to the Americans. When Israel has an argument with the United States, the answer must be: "Yes, but..." This has been said many times and explained equally as often. Anyone who does not understand the point is not worth the trouble of an explanation. And there would be no reason to argue the subject. Menahem Begin's insulting, aggravating "no" to Reagan's suggestion is not foreign policy at all and does not protect Israel's control over Judaea and Samaria. To the contrary, it seriously endangers this control. It must be emphasized again and again: It is not enough to be for Jewish control over all of western Israel. There must also be a policy that will not result in our being ousted from the area. Saying "no" to the Americans may bring about an attempt to open American-Arab talks and implement an Arab plan--or a quasi-Arab plan--that will be called a Reagan plan. Later it will be very difficult, perhaps impossible, to maintain Israeli control in the face of such a plan. Had the Government said "yes, but" to Reagan, it might have invited the wrath of certain sectors and perhaps harmed its own image, but it would have been serving the best interests of Israel--as this government sees it. It would have created a basis for policy discussions between Israel and the United States, and the realization of a plan that the Arabs would react to negatively. If such a plan were to include Israeli concessions, they would be concessions on paper, which are never difficult. The PLO, on the other hand, is beginning to understand this and we are beginning to hear voices supporting the "Reagan Plan"--if certain changes were made in favor of the Arabs.

The Labor Party's hasty acceptance is just as harmful as the Likud's hasty rejection. If the plan really is so good for Israel that the Alignment would go out of its way to defend it--perhaps the plan is really too pro-Israel and the Americans should balance it for the Arabs. As in the American analogy above, the Alignment's position makes the Likud's position desirable (and vice versa)!

From any point of view, that of those who support annexation or those who support territorial compromise, the Americans should have been told: "Yes, but..." The role of the opposition cannot be played to its fullest by adopting Reagan's suggestions, mumbling something about the status of Jerusalem. Thus a two-fold harm is caused: politically to Israel and publicly to the Labor Party. In the beginning, I said that his might be the Alignment's biggest mistake yet. Not so for the Likud. The Likud has made bigger mistakes. Perhaps the biggest was one that also related to the Jewish-Arab struggle and the American position, when the Begin Government chose a most unusual approach in its negotiations with Egypt. By opening with an invitation to Sadat to visit Jerusalem (in a conversation between Dayan and Tuhemi in Morocco), Sadat rose to the status of a hero in America. This mistake was one of the reasons--although perhaps not a major one--for the destruction of Yamit and Ofira. Negotiations should be started with an opening bid, carefully, without theatrics, without helping the other side raise its status.

The Likud's mistakes, by they what they may, do not justify those of the Alignment.

ERLICH SAID WORKING TOWARD LIKUD LEADERSHIP

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Oct 82 Weekend Supplement p 5

/Article: "The Liberals are Scurrying About Again"/

/Text/ Deputy Prime Minister Simha Erlich will apparently be asked in the near future to relinquish his position in the Ministry of Agriculture in favor of his deputy, MK Pesah Gruper. The suggestion was brought up this week at an internal party meeting in Tel Aviv. According to the plan, Erlich, once "freed" from his responsibilities in the Ministry of Agriculture, will be able to devote himself more fully to his role as deputy prime minister, and build his position as a candidate to lead the Likud.

But it appears that the real reason behind the suggestion is to avoid a struggle within the party over the jobs left open when deputy minister of transportation, David Shifner, was ousted.

The Liberal Party, true to itself, was forced into vigorous action due to the need to fill one ministerial position (opened by Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman's resignation) and one or two deputy positions.

Gruper was not the only one who volunteered for the ministerial job. The party's "ideological center" sent a letter to Begin asking that the ministry be given to the movement's council chairman, Yitzhak Ka'atabi, a Yemenite; and the young Liberals in Haifa wanted to see the position filled by the deputy mayor of Haifa, Tzvi Zimmerman. There were also those campaigning for MK Sara Doron, for the deputy mayor of Ramat-Gat, former MK Moshe Meron, and others. Only two candidates have come forward thus far for the deputy minister posts--Yehuda Parash and Pinhas Goldstein.

Another subject that roused the party this week was the suggestion to make sweeping changes in election procedures for the next Knesset election. Under discussion is a suggested amendment, proposed some time back in the wake of discussions among ministers and party leaders at one of the annual sessions. According to the new amendment, Knesset members will be chosen by the party center but a coordinating committee will decide the relative place of the 40 people chosen on the party list. The new amendment would also eliminate the requirement of 60 percent of the party center's members votes for anyone who wants to run for a third term. Support for the amendment is almost unanimous, transcending personal rivalries and ideologies, if there are any.

But there are already threats to knock the party off the shaky foundation on which it stands. MK Dan Tichon, whose chances of running another term are very slim if the new amendment goes into effect, declared: "Anyone who wants to destroy the government should vote for the amendment."

The truth is that it apparently will not be easy to pass the new amendment. The cabinet is united in its desire to pass the amendment, being that it is in their best interest. Not so for the members of the party center, who today are perpetually surrounded by Knesset contenders who buzz around them. In private conversations the MKs admit that the desire to be freed from the burden of "licking and stroking" the party center is one of the main reasons for passing the amendment.

MK Dror Zeigerman--the new amendment, among other things, was designed to prevent him from being elected to the next Knesset--told me: "I won't run in the next Knesset election on the Likud list. The truth is that the Liberal Party has lost so much of its character that it doesn't matter in the least whether there is a nominating committee or not."

9811

CSO: 4423/35

FIGHT BETWEEN LEVI, MAGEN ANALYZED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Oct 82 p 19

/Article by Ya'ir Kotler: "The Wars of David Against David: Magen Against Levi"/

/Text/ Hot coals are burning in the Herut movement. They are secretly organizing for the confrontation expected over the successor. Candidates are not lacking. The scene: The movement's upcoming convention has been postponed time and again for one reason or another by one person or another. Activists and other participants are busy building a new leadership core. Last Thursday, 14 October, the race began.

MK David Magen, Herut's hawk, opened a tirade. His target was carefully chosen: David Levi, deputy prime minister and minister of housing, who is making his claim to succeed Menahem Begin as Prime Minister. A massive attack was launched at the Likud meeting which took place at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem.

David Magen, who generally does not talk very much, opened a frontal defense for his friend, Minister of Defense Ari'el Sharon. Relations between the two have been ambivalent--sometimes up, sometimes down. But in David Magen's eyes, David Levi--both of Moroccan extraction--is an enemy and a rival who must be dealt with. Sharon has been attacked by several prominent figures in the Likud, such as Deputy Prime Ministers Simha Erlich and David Levi. Relations between the two--Erlich and Levi--have not been ideal and there is no great love between them, but that is a story unto itself. And anyway, what minister loves his partner in marriage?

Magen decided to put a halt to the "bloodletting and character attacks" on Ari'el Sharon. First he blames himself for not coming to Sharon's defense early enough when the minister of defense was "brutally" criticized by the media and by members of the Likud. He also blames those friends who did not "come out in full force" to defend their colleague. Instead, they "joined the fun" and the ranks of those activists rallying against Sharon. He saw an "urgent, spiritual" need to confront Sharon's critics openly and head-on, "as is his way," and reverse the trend.

Question Marks

David Magen watched the television program "Focus" when David Levi was interviewed. Magen found that Levi left several question marks, during that broadcast, in the wrong places (according to Magen), with facial expressions, by not presenting the facts, and by not answering questions that touched on Sharon--provoking silences. Magen was left with the impression that the interviewers questions and the interviewees answers were designed to attack Sharon.

Why did Menahem Begin play dumb and not come to Sharon's defense? It is difficult to get a straight answer from David Magen, but he "knows" that the prime minister was occupied with his own defense and that the government was flooded by attacks from within Israel and from abroad. Begin simply did not find the time to cover for "his" minister of defense. Even so, David Magen notes that "at every opportunity," including sessions of the committee on defense and foreign affairs (of which he is a member), Begin gave complete backing to Sharon.

Ministers and Knesset members who took part in the stormy Likud meeting last Thursday noted that Begin was pleased by Magen's attack on Levi. How do they know that? They answer: You have to know how to read the prime minister's face, which always betrays him.

Central Herut figures recalled this week that the break between Begin and Levi--the two were very close and Levi always bowed to his leader--began at the end of the Likud's first term. Levi's rivals recall that Ezer Weitzman's actions (as minister of defense) against Begin relied heavily on Levi's support. Levi saw himself at the time (and still does today) as the "strong man of the movement." And that's how he presented (presents) himself.

The Threat to Begin

Later came the direct threat to Begin. On the day that the new government was instated, following the 1981 elections, the new Likud held a meeting. David Levi was brazen. Although he promised to support the government in a confidence vote, he did not take his place on the Knesset floor. Without him, the new coalition did not have a majority. Then came the "big squeeze:" Begin gave in and promised to give the title of deputy prime minister to the "little mutineer," David Levi.

Begin never forgot that. He knows how to hold a grudge and today he is out to get Levi. David Magen is the man who can implement the prime minister's plan, perform various tasks for Levi's rivals, such as Ari'el Sharon, Yitzhak Shamir and even Yoran 'Aridor. Magen is "sure" that the minister of defense will come out of the investigation "smelling like a rose." He is betting on him even though he is quite aware that the minister of defense can stab even his friends in the back, because any means to achieve his ends are legitimate in his eyes. Despite and in spite of it all, today--with an emphasis on the "today"--Sharon has an ad hoc agreement with David Magen and his crew to "take care" of David Levi. The green light has been given.

David Magen is not a fervent supporter of Ari'el Sharon, but as an army man (first sargeant, reserves, who was the commander of an armored scout unit in the war of attrition in 1970) he respects and admires General Sharon, the leader. It hurts him that the Alignment is trying to smear Sharon's name. Likud members are "falling into the trap" set for them by the Alignment: Every attack on Sharon threatens the stability of the government and dessicates the fruits of the victory won in Lebanon.

Are there really fruits of victory from the Galilee Peace War?

David Magen perceives that there were many gains made in that campaign, principally ousting the terrorists from their command positions in Lebanon.

But one may say: Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

Weitzman and Peres

Magen does not believe that Shimon Peres and Ezer Weitzman's clandestine attempts to topple the government without elections will succeed. "I know the powers at play and I know to what degree they believe in Peres, in his ability and readiness." He adds happily that "once again it has been proven that what Yitzhak Rabin wrote about Shimon Peres is true and holds water: an indefatigable troublemaker."

Magen has several explanations for the alliance between Peres and Weitzman, or rather Peres's courting of Weitzman--or perhaps vice versa--despite the fact that there is no chemistry between the two. "Both are trying to become experts in character murder. Just as Weitzman, with the help of Peres, did not succeed at killing Rabin's character, Peres, with the help of Weitzman, will not succeed at killing Arik Sharon's character."

The network of relations between Magen and Sharon is first and foremost that of neighbors who suspect each other. Qiriyat-Gat, Mayor Magen's city and bastion, is not very far from Sharon's sprawling farm. But Magen's rivals say that he is Sharon's prodigy, a title he vehemently rejects. "Were I asked to choose myself a father, it would be Menahem Begin." His esteem for the prime minister knows no bounds.

Magen says: "In everything I do, I listen to the calling of my conscience. When I felt compelled to attack Sharon with regard to his visit to Cairo in April of this year, I told him that he was blinded and intoxicated by Hasan Kamal 'Ali's embraces and had therefore lent a hand in the Sinai withdrawal. I also did not hesitate to argue with him, bitterly and strongly, over his lack of restraint and overzealousness toward the residents of Yamit on the eve of the evacuation and during it. My positions are always based on the crux of the issue."

Certain questions arise: What did David Magen expect of Sharon--that he would break the peace agreement with Egypt? That he would oppose the withdrawal from Yamit? That he would be alienated by his trip to Cairo?

David Magen is more of a hawk than Ari'el Sharon: He is against the Camp David accords; against the peace agreement with Egypt; against peace agreements with the Arabs until they establish democratic regimes on the Israeli model--and a long list of "againsts." But he is not false like some of the other Likud members. He lives his beliefs. He has definite principles, for better or for worse, but he is not an opportunist. That much must be said in his favor.

For the Underdog

Magen is defending a pursued, beaten Sharon. He knows that Sharon has many enemies due to his brutal, callous behavior, even toward old friends who went through fire and water with him. And Sharon is his own greatest enemy. This, too, David Magen has learned to recognize. "Those who despise Sharon today were once his most ardent admirers. Arik, through his style and behavior, has a special talent for losing long-lasting friendships in but a few moments, which is a pity."

The animosity between "little" David (as his rivals call him) Magen and "big" David (as his admirers call him) Levi began one stormy, dramatic night in the summer of 1981 at the Herut center. To the surprise of many, Magen, after much hard work, was chosen to be one of his party's candidates for the 10th Knesset elections. Upon hearing the results "I saw David Levi's reaction: Shock. His face fell and turned pale, showing deep disappointment and fear... At that moment I lost my faith in him. I understood that the impression he had tried to create of helping me was a lie."

The startled Levi did not congratulate the triumphant Magen, who was rejoicing in his victory. The introverted Magen--who is also known for his outbursts--hurriedly congratulated Levi on the very respectable second place he had won on the party list. Levi demonstrated a lack of regard for Magen, forgetting to mention the mayor's victory and the strides he had made in improving his image which had been the butt of many jokes in 1978.

Magen points out the animosity of the ministry of housing toward Qiriyat-Gat, attempts at "budgetary revenge" (in his words) by the ministry; misleading questions and misleading answers in the Knesset. Magen claims: "The ministry of housing has not been fair in its dealings with us and has not fulfilled its obligations toward Qiriyat-Gat."

This was Levi's way of waging war on Mayor Magen--at the expense, of course, of the taxpayers who are always the victims of personal animosities, "Jewish" wars, wars among leaders.

Magen says: "David Levi is using tactics that a democratic state cannot allow itself."

In response to Levi's "behavior," Magen turned to the state comptroller and accused the ministry of housing of submitting false statistics. The best is yet to come in the Herut family...

Levi is in the Minority

David Magen emphasizes that David Levi today has no real power in the Likud. His supporters are few and powerless themselves. He is an impotent minority. Magen knows that "only" MK Micha Raiser and MK Amal Nasir al-Din, from Daliyat al-Karmel--two out of 25 members--support Levi.

The Herut secretariat and leadership are formed from the existing coalition within the movement. Now that is falling apart. The alliance between David Levi and Yoram 'Aridor is breathing its last breath.

The anger directed toward Levi has its source--according to Magen--in his "ideological superficiality." Although David Magen is not burning up the world, from an ideological standpoint he is considerably more fanatic than David Levi. A new/old quartet is being built within Herut: Yitzhak Shamir, Yoram 'Aridor, Moshe Arens and Ari'el Sharon (in that order, more or less, with perhaps some change in the third and fourth places), "in consideration of the future fate of Israel" (as Magen describes it). A group of hawks in the Herut leadership, pitted against David Levi, would block his options. Magen calls him a "careerist."

However, Magen admits, he and his friends have no proof that Levi is willing to compromise on the question of one Israel--the holiest of holy cows in Herut--although he might come to terms with Ezer Weitzman's policy line, which, in the eyes of many Herut activists, is even worse. The party ideologists will not forgive that kind of flexibility.

Magen praises Yoram 'Aridor: He is traditional, a supporter of the one Israel ideology, against Weitzman and, most important in Magen's eyes, he voted against the Camp David accords. It might be added that Yitzhak Shamir did the same. Magen says that all those who support one Israel, without compromise, will unite as the convention approaches and will form a bloc based on ideology, not opportunism. It is easy to guess at whom the darts are being thrown. The chairman of the important permanent committee at the convention will most likely be 'Aridor. This in itself speaks for the make-up of the party center.

David Magen finds many faults--many of which may be imagined--in the popular David Levi, "sins" which could fill the daily agenda, such as: aberrations from the Herut doctrine and ideological platform; a lack of cooperation with his colleagues; leaking information from government sessions. All he asks of David Levi can be summed up in one sentence: Stop leaking information and remain a friend. "If he doesn't do that much, he will be hurt." Of himself, Magen says: "I don't ask for anything for myself, not even a seat in the Knesset."

There are those who are trying to oust David Levi. "It's only natural," says Magen, emphasizing: "He will not be one of the top four. The ideologies of the leading quartet are "identical." Lined up against them is a "mixed bag" of people representing a "pot pourri" of ideologies--"And I don't really believe any one person can stand against them." David Levi will have to fight hard to make amends for the "mistakes" he made in the recent past if he wants to be part of the quartet, which would then be a quintet, if he can still do it at all. It would require a public admission of his guilt!

Magen does not foresee a successor to Menahem Begin in the near future. Begin, he says, "is in his prime."

He denies that his struggle against David Levi is also aimed at taking the hegemony from the deputy prime minister, the spokesman of the Moroccan community. "Not necessarily." He argues that David Levi is an electoral "asset" for Herut. Magen is very critical of Ezer Weitzman. And he is not the only one. He is against the statements coming out of Caesaria which are intended "to incite officers against Sharon."

David Magen quotes from a telephone conversation he had with Weitzman last Friday. Weitzman bragged about his part in Staff Commander, Brigadier General 'Amram Mitzna's continued army service. He told Mitzna not to dare go on leave after he publicly announced that he had lost faith in the minister of defense, because that would only make Sharon happy. "I ordered Mitzna not to be stupid and to go back to his post."

Magen, who was appalled by Weitzman's statement, interprets it as follows: "Weitzman told Mitzna, 'Don't resign' because that would make life easy for Arik in the ministry of defense."

In every conversation that Weitzman has with central Herut figures he advises them to do everything they can to get rid of "the fat man" as soon as possible.

Sharon's Troubles

David Magen feels that Sharon's "troubles" in the defense system started "recently" when he declared on a certain Purim that the next chief of the general staff would not come from the armored corps. He refuses to explain further but official sources added that General Avigdor Ben Gal (Yanosh) was deeply hurt. They asked why Sharon had to bar the position of chief of the general staff from one officer or another, creating an alliance in Caesaria between Weitzman and Yanosh (also a resident of Caesaria), against him, an alliance which another local, high-ranking uniformed resident might join: Y. B. H.?

Sharon has three candidates to replace "Rafel": Generals Moshe Levi ("Moshe Vahetzi" which means Moshe and a half), Dan Shomron and Amir Drori—all three from the foot soldiers paratroop unit. Drori's candidacy was brought up only recently. At this point he is the preferred candidate.

I repeated my question about David Levi: What is the reason for his popularity among the people?

Magen replied with sarcasm: First of all, he is a handsome fellow.

David Magen himself is not ugly: dark, well-built, solid and tall.

Sharon at Arm's Length

David Magen's candid remarks included information on other expected developments among Herut leaders, such as: the ever greater rift between 'Aridor and Levi, the source of which is Levi's open desire to be the next prime minister. 'Aridor is appalled by such a plan. His close associates would like to dismiss the partnership that had existed until recently between 'Aridor and Levi as a "tactical alliance and nothing more."

The Shamir-'Aridor-Arens triumverate "agreed" to include Sharon but to hold him "at arms' length," this in order to prevent David Levi from becoming Prime Minister. But a bulldozer like Sharon also has long-term aspiration for the prime minister's chair, although he would bow to Yitzhak Shamir, as long as Levi did not win the top seat.

Meanwhile, it has been agreed that Yitzhak Shamir would present Yoram 'Aridor's candidacy for the position of chairman of the permanent committee at the next convention, a position that has been Levi's turf. The Herut leadership is grooming David Magen as David Levi's antithesis. They remember Levi's cardinal sin: Having been a full-fledged Mapainik in Bet-She'an when he served as deputy head of the local council several years ago.

The fact is: Magen's open, persistent attack on Levi has catapulted him into a superior position. The telephones don't stop ringing in his home or in his office. I spoke with him for 3 hours at Qiriyat Gat. Our conversation had no real continuity. Every few minutes we were interrupted by a phone call: More power to you, keep up the good work, don't give up, you've done a good job--and a list of similar encouraging remarks. Even Ari'el Sharon was on the line that morning.

A Game of Bluff

David Magen says that David Levi is bluffing. "He has no power." Magen is building himself up quietly. He is a growing leader. To succeed in the heart of the Herut movement today, one must take a hard political line. This is what Magen has done. Nothing phases him. He speaks quietly, almost in a whisper. He words his sentences carefully, almost too carefully, but he does not shrink from using a more aggressive style. "I won't say anything that is not factual."

David Levi's spiritual supporter in the Herut party is MK Micha Raiser. He has a familiar calling card. 'Aridor appointed him head of the party's organizational branch. Today, there is a rift between him and 'Aridor, since the minister of the treasury learned that Raiser intended to support Levi for chairman of the permanent committee. His friendship with Ezer Weitzman and his support of David Levi "have hurt Raiser's chances of advancement." That is how the cookie crumbles in Herut, and probably in most other parties.

Raiser defines himself somewhat differently: "I am my own man, and David Levi's man and Yoram 'Aridor's man--in that order or any other." He refuses to speak about Magen. He dismisses the tension between himself and 'Aridor, quoting the slogan: The Levi-'Aridor duo is good for the party; Ezer Weitzman is important to the movement.

Micha Raiser admits matter-of-factly: "Against the background of the war in Lebanon, a rift has been created between Yitzhak Shamir and David Levi. Levi chose to compete for the position of successor against Shamir. There has also been an attempt to create a rift between Yoram 'Aridor and Levi."

Straight from the hero's mouth--David Levi's good friend.

The Little Demosthenes

It appears that the separation has penetrated deeply. David Levi, whom various government ministers call the "little Demosthenes," is digging in for a fight. Levi, who is so good at imitating Menahem Begin with a French accent and who is so adept at soothing the prime minister with compliments and flowery introductions at the beginning of each Knesset session, has not yet said the word. Meanwhile, he is collecting dividends from the media: "The head of the moderates; flexible; cool-headed--trendy adjectives which couldn't be further from the truth: a blatant opportunist who was among (he does not like to be reminded of this) the majority which voted for the war in Lebanon, against only two opponents: Simha Erlich and Yitzhak Berman. The ministers call David Levi Dr Jeckel and Mr Hyde.

His rival, David Magen, is described as a hard-line, uncompromising hawk. Flexibility is a trait he leaves to others. This has always been his way. A man of principle who does not give in. He is seen as a seasonal extremist.

MK Me'ir Shetrit, mayor of Yavne, does not like him, to say the least. The head of the opposition in Qiriyat-Gat, Alignment man Yosef Kohen, is not among his admirers either, although Magen thinks differently. Kohen says that Magen is like a dictator in Qiriyat-Gat in every way, ignoring the law, running council meetings whenever he pleases. He emphasizes that since he became a Knesset member, Magen has neglected city matters, being away 4 or 5 days out of the week, calling senior municipal functionaries to the Knesset for meetings. He "illegally" approved an unusual 50 percent raise for "severn select men"--functionaries close to him.

The actual management of Qiriyat-Gat has been relegated to his deputy and replacement: a retired "tired writer" who is not in control, according to the opposition.

I asked Yosef Kohen: What is the secret of David Magen's popularity in town? I told him I had heard that if municipal elections were held today, Magen would get 80 percent of the votes, as opposed to the 60 percent he received in the last election.

The head of the opposition, Kohen, had a brief reply which requires no interpretation: "David Magen looks great from the outside...The decisive majority in Qiriyat-Gat belongs to the Moroccan community."

Yosef Kohen is not Moroccan. He emigrated from Tunisia in 1950 and is married with five children. From 1961-1974 he was secretary of the municipality. Since 1978 he has been head of the opposition. He owns a travel agency in Qiriyat-Gat.

Yosef Kohen would like to refresh people's selective memories: When David Magen was in the opposition in Qiriyat-Gat, he was responsible for "frequent outbursts" at council sessions, "just as he has lashed out against David Levi." Mr Kohen also said meaningfully that: "Once, during one of his outbreaks, he overturned a table."

Supporters Within the Likud

One way of another, the fact is that it is difficult to tear him down: David Magen is popular in Qiriyat-Gat, in the "ethnic south" of the development town and he has an army of supporters among Ashkenazi Jews as well. In Herut, in the Knesset, he is the current hero.

His municipal district already numbers 27,000 and supplies services to 40,000. There is a shortage of labor in the town whose economy is based on mixed labor. Every day, 2,500 Arabs are brought in. The trip to Hebron takes only 28 minutes.

Senior Likud members say that David Magen is fair, that he has a good military background, a positive attitude and that he helps his friends. They say that when he was the officer-in-charge on an armored corp base, with a good friend who was the duty sargeant, the sargeant neglected to report the content of a telegram that arrived for the commander. For such an offense, the punishment would be 35 days in military prison. David Magen told his friend: I'll take the responsibility upon myself. And he did. The general came down hard on him and his friend, the sargeant, got off scot free.

He was born in Fez, Morocco, in 1945. When he was 4 years old he immigrated to Israel. He is married to Dutch-born Rahel and is the father of three daughters. In the Herut center, during the struggle for the 10th Knesset candidacy, he came out in 15th place, just behind Moshe Katzav (12), but ahead of Me'ir Shetrif (21).

David Magen is a hard nut to crack.

To his rivals, he is a threat. In his town he rules with an iron hand. He is known as a "doer" and a practitioner, a supporter of the workers' committees.

In Herut there are other figures like David Magen, but none of them has yet dared to open a frontal offensive against "Number 2:" David Levi.

David Magen's star is casting a shadow as far as the Prime Minister's office.

9811

CSO: 4423/35

W. BANK INHABITANTS AUTHORIZE HUSAYN TO HOLD TALKS

TA241355 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Dec 82 p 2

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] For the first time since the 6-day war, King Husayn has in his possession announcements of support by more than 200 East Jerusalem and occupied territories public figures and clerics authorizing him to launch negotiations with any element whatsoever in the aim of bringing Israel to withdraw from the area.

Anticipating his trip to the United States, the monarch initiated this campaign in order to show that no regional arrangement would be feasible without him. In carrying out this mission he made use of expatriate public figures residing in Jordan as well as his staunch loyalists, who are also leaders of the East Jerusalem Supreme Muslim Council.

Only three central personalities refused to grant King Husayn any such key powers, they are: Hilmi Hanum from Tulkarm, Bassam Ash-Shak'ah from Nabulus, and Bashir Baghruit from Ramallah. The others--beginning with Rashad Ash-Shawwa from Gaza through Ilyas Frayj in Bethlehem down to Karim Khalaf from Ramallah--believe that under the circumstances that have been created in the area, King Husayn can make use of a breakthrough that would ultimately lead to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The U.S. administration is involved in each stage of the above campaign, and recently it has furthermore employed the two deported mayors, Fahd Al-Qawasimi and Muhammad Milhim to have them use their influence on their fellow inhabitants of the occupied territories in a bid to make them soften their position toward the Jordanian administration, so that it would be possible to obtain a political arrangement through it.

Last night Arab figures claimed that King Husayn is now given the opportunity of confronting the Palestinian problem "not in order to derive political benefits from it to his monarchy." Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj thinks that "we are going back to the starting point of 15 years ago, when only few among us believed that the involvement of the Jordanian rule was vital for the attainment of a political arrangement whether through the United States, which carries great weight in Israel, or in other ways."

CSO: 4400/140

JORDAN

BRIEFS

JORDAN'S 1983 BUDGET--In a statement to Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH today, Jordanian Finance Minister Kamil Masa'idah said that Jordan's budget next year will reach 795.37 million dinars, which is 30.37 million dinars more than this year's budget. Masa'idah said that the new budget is based on building Jordan's intrinsic strength and strengthening its armed forces. [Text] [GF280410 Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Dec 82]

CSO: 4400/140

KUWAIT FINANCE MINISTER VIEWS NEXT STATE BUDGET

GF231237 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 22 Dec 82 p 1

[By business editor]

[Text] Finance Minister 'abd al-Hamad yesterday raised the spectre of tighter spending in Kuwait's next state budget. But he stressed that Kuwait had adequate resources to cover its needs.

In a press interview on the 1983-84 budget, Mr Al-Hamad said his ministry would be looking for new sources of income, and ways of rationalizing spending. He said the government might introduce changes for certain public services, but he did not give details.

"Nothing has been decided so far in this respect," he said.

In his new budget to be presented to the national assembly before April, Mr Al-Hamad will have to find ways of keeping up with growing expenditures against a background of falling oil revenue.

The last Kuwaiti budget projected a total income of KD 3,206 million, of which KD 2,980 millions came from oil and gas sales. This was a 42 percent drop on the previous year. And for the first time on record, Kuwait budget allowed for an overall deficit to KD 312.6 million. This was covered by the country's general reserves.

With oil production still running well below Kuwait's former 1.3 million barrels a day, financial planners will be faced with similar decisions next year.

Mr Al-Hamad said the next budget must stress rationalization, to secure the optimal return from expenditure. But he said the country had adequate resources to meet all its development commitments.

In this respect, analysts predict that only four OPEC states currently hit by declining oil revenues, will be able to sustain their ambitious development plans.

They are Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, along with Kuwait. Other OPEC producers are expected to have to scale down their projects.

Mr Al-Hamad was asked if the government was considering turning over certain public utilities with profit-making potential to private entrepreneurs. He said the government was studying such possibilities, and he cited the decision to give a franchise for a mobile phone company to a private individual.

Questioned about the progress made by the Kuwait Clearance House Company, which is handling the stock market crisis, Mr Al-Hamad said the company had already determined the volume of shares at KD 25 billion, involving 308 dealers.

The most important task of the company, he went on, was to monitor share records of companies operating in the stock market.

The company has been authorized to act as the executive authority for the small investors' fund set up by the government. In Kuwait, small investors have been defined as those owed up to KD 2 million.

CSO: 4400/138

COLUMNIST BACKS AMENDMENTS

GF091058 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8 Dec 82 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Not a Political Game"]

[Text] From the explanation of H. H. the crown prince and from the clarification of the justice minister it is very clear that the study of the amendments of the constitution depends solely on the approval of the deputies, and during discussion of the articles they can reject or amend what they want.

The crown prince made a simple, clear and easy speech and for people to say it is a political game or philosophical cunning is not correct.

He said the government does not want to find itself facing defective legislation at times of crisis.

The crown prince said that routine procedures could adversely affect public affairs and cited the Al-Manakh stock market crisis as an example, pointing out that crisis could have ended much earlier, but for procedures. The assembly discussed the proposals of the government for eight weeks, and in the end approved these proposals with minor amendments.

It is the right of the Amir, after 20 years of applying the constitution but [words omitted] benefit the government. He took as an example the two weeks allowed for forming a new government, and said this period was not enough to bring in new faces especially as suitable people are rare, and if found, prefer private work as the financial opportunities are high.

A logical study of the articles to be amended will show that the amendments are not draconian. Even Article 71, which gives the right to issue Amiri decrees during the vacation of the assembly, can be amended to state the type of decrees which could be issued to avoid decrees that may limit freedom of opinion or impose taxes.

Everything should be discussed in a calm, relaxed atmosphere.

CSO: 4400/138

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS SOVIET AMBASSADOR

GF311618 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 30 Dec 82 p 12

[Interview with Nikolay Sikachev, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, by AL-WATAN--
date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Will Soviet policy change now that Yuriy Andropov
has been elected general secretary of the CPSU?

[Answer] One of the main characteristics of Soviet policy is the inherited
firm principles of the Soviet state. The 26th Congress of the CPSU, which
was held in March, outlined the clearcut program for the state's long-term
operations. On the level of domestic policy, the program will continue to
implement the economic strategy whose goal is improving the material and
cultural levels of the people's life and creating the best circumstances for
comprehensively improving all economic sectors based on raising work efficiency
and improving the social and practical activities of Soviet citizens.

Regarding foreign policy, the program's main concern is achieving peace in the
1980's which includes struggling to ease the danger of war and stopping the
arms race for the sake of international detente and cooperation among peoples.

Needless to say, the resolutions of the 26th Congress were based on previous
party congresses' resolutions and on the principles of achieving them and on
the cohesion between the peoples of our multinational country, the USSR, which
is celebrating its 60th anniversary. [passage omitted]

[Question] The national Arab forces know that the Soviet Union is a loyal
ally to the Palestinian liberation movement and the national Arab liberation
movement. What is your view of the future of the Palestinian resistance move-
ment in view of the U.S.-aided Zionist attack?

[Answer] Some observers believe that the Palestinians' exit from Beirut was
a defeat for the Palestinian resistance movement. This view is completely un-
founded. The Palestinians left Beirut without losing their dignity after the
entire world learnt of their ability to resist the heavily-armed Israelis
for a long time. [passage omitted]

Thus, in talking about the Palestinian resistance's future, we can say that its will for victory is unbreakable. The resistance withstood hard tests with its honor intact, and the goals of the Palestinian struggle are still alive and constant. As for the future, the Palestinians have a long and glorious march full of hope and confidence in achieving final victory and restoring the violated Palestinian people's rights. In this march, the Palestinians have become sure of the support of the Soviet Union which was, and still is, a faithful and strong friend of the Palestinians, as Comrade Yasir 'Arafat has said.

CSO: 4400/138

KUWAIT

GCC CIVIL DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS BEGIN

LD291510 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 29 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Dec (KUNA)--The GCC Civil Defense Committee meetings began here today. The meeting will last 2 weeks.

In an opening speech welcoming the participants Kuwait Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad expressed the hope that the meeting will realize the objectives expected of them.

He said: Civil defense has become one of the tasks that needs comprehensive planning to amass human and material resources in order to increase it to the ideal level.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad added that it is natural that this meeting should lead to the construction of a comprehensive security strategy within a comprehensive plan for civil defense affairs.

Maj Gen (Yusuf Badr al-Kharafi), Kuwaiti Interior Ministry undersecretary, also gave a speech in which he stressed the significant role of civil defense in facing the dangers and catastrophies which could be brought about against the six states of the council.

In addition to Kuwait the GCC includes the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman.

The opening ceremony of the meeting, which will last until 12 January, was attended by Interior Ministry assistant secretaries, representatives of Ministries of Public Works and Defense Ministries, of the Kuwait Municipality, the fire brigade, air force, air defense and others concerned with this field.

CSO: 4400/138

DEPUTY SPEAKER MEMO STRESSES ASSEMBLY POWERS

GF311200 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Dec 82 p 7

[Text] The legislature cannot be made to surrender any of its authority, except in the case of economic or military crises, according to Article 50 of the Constitution, the deputy speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly, Mr Ahmad as-Sa'dun said in a detailed memorandum to the chairman of the legislative and legal committee, Mr 'Isa Majid ash-Shahin, on the proposed amendments of the Constitution.

Mr As-Sa'dun said that Article 65 of the Constitution states that if H.H. the Amir does not ratify or reject a draft law within 30 days then it can be considered as ratified.

The assembly is allowed to reduce this period to seven days if the draft law is urgent. Mr As-Sa'dun said this was sufficient for a decision because ministers were already aware of a draft law during its passage in the assembly.

The deputy speaker said that the amendment of Article 65 does not allow deputies to reconsider a rejected draft law during the same session and that a two-third's majority was needed to ratify the rejected draft law in the next session. He said a two-third's majority was difficult as the 16 ministers would [vote against] any draft rejected by the Amir.

Mr As-Sa'dun said the Constitution gives the assembly the right to approve or reject the imposition of martial law, but the amendment deprives the house of this right.

He said that the amendment of Article 71 obliges deputies to review decrees within three months, failing which the decrees are ratified automatically. He said three months is not sufficient.

The amendment of Article 80 proposed increasing the number of assembly members to 60. Mr As-Sa'dun said the increase should be only in the number of deputies. If the number of ministers was increased accordingly it would give them an edge in the house.

He said that a term of four years was better than the five years proposed by the amendment of Article 83.

The deputy speaker said that 15 days was sufficient to form a cabinet as proved in the past and there was no need to increase the period to 30 days.

The amendment of Article No 100 proposed extending the period between a deputy's question and a minister's answer from eight days to two weeks. The amendment was not necessary as the present article permitted a minister to ask for more time Mr As-Sa'dun said.

Requiring ten instead of five deputies to support a proposal before it could be tabled for discussions, as stated in the amendment of Article 112, restricted the rights of deputies, and was not necessary as nobody had complained about the article as it stood, he said.

CSO: 4400/138

KUWAITI OIL OFFICIAL ON GROWTH, EXPLORATION

LD181456 Kuwait KUNA in English 1148 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Dec (KUNA)--Oil exploration in developing countries should be intensified with the aid of OPEC national oil companies, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Chairman 'Abd ar-Razzaq Mulla al-Husayn has said.

In a statement released to KUNA Saturday, Husayn said that in view of the current recession, the strong dollar and the recent high interest rates "the ability to sustain economic growth through imported energy is severely constrained." Therefore, although Kuwait has substantial proven reserves and a high reserve to production ratio, there is a need to search for new resources overseas.

"Kuwait is a single resource economy and since oil is a finite resource, its production and sale represent a depletion of our asset base," the deputy chairman stressed, adding that "since the one industry with which we have experience and expertise is oil, it is logical for us to use the national oil company as a vehicle for the process of capital transformation, and (?foreign) exploration is one element of this."

Husayn also cited the profitability of investment in exploration and production and the benefits of diversification and flexibility in absorbing cyclic variations as reasons to branch out into foreign exploration.

In line with this policy, KPC has established a foreign exploration subsidiary, the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company, of which Husayn was made chairman.

He admitted that KUFPEC's "primary corporate objective is to earn a good return on our capital," however, he said, "we also want to fully utilize our resources and to take advantage of our ancillary services and facilities which exist elsewhere in the corporation, such as Santa Fe's drilling, minerals [word indistinct] engineering divisions."

"In this respect, our approach is wider in scope and more complementary to the needs of the developing countries in that we can respond both to those countries seeking outside exploration companies and to those who prefer to seek [word indistinct] outside technical services, or a combination of both," Husayn emphasized.

In conclusion, Husayn said that there is a need for intensified efforts of [words indistinct] in developing countries, but these efforts require a mutual understanding of the motivating forces of host nation and provider of investment funds and a reconciliation of the two."

"What KPC is doing in respect to international exploration could be followed by some of the other OPEC national oil companies to their advantage," he added.

CSO: 4400/138

BRIEFS

MANPOWER STATISTICS—About 382,000 people are working in Kuwait, the assistant under secretary at the Planning Ministry, Dr 'Abd al-Hadi al-Awadi, said in a study on manpower published yesterday. He said that 60 percent of government employees are non-Kuwaitis. Women comprise 26 percent of government employees, most working in the Education and Health Ministries. [Text] [GF231329 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 22 Dec 82 p 4]

RESUMPTION OF OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN TIES--Manama, 31 Dec (WAKH)--[passage omitted] In Kuwait, the newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM called upon the Arab countries to resume relations with Egypt on the official level and urged the gulf countries in particular to take this initiative. The paper said: "This step has become more than necessary," and asked the reasons for the evasiveness prevailing in the Arab stand, affirming that the Arab countries need Egypt and know that they have no other support but Egypt. The newspaper praised Egypt's role regarding the Palestinian cause. It said: "Egypt's weight in the Arab balance has no equal." [Excerpts] [From the press review] [GF311050 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 31 Dec 82]

FRANCE TO TRAIN PILOTS--Kuwait and France signed a protocol yesterday for training Kuwaiti pilots in using the sophisticated Mirage-2000 warplanes, a Defense Ministry statement said. The statement did not say how many pilots will be trained or how many planes to this up-to-date version of the Mirage aircraft were involved. French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said last month in Kuwait, France has agreed to supply Kuwait with a number of Mirage-2000 aircraft along with other military equipment. [Text] [GF301126 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 29 Dec 82 p 1]

CSO: 4400/138

'AL-HAWADITH' INTERVIEWS PHALANGIST COMMANDER

PM211131 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Dec 82 pp 18, 19, 19/1

[Interview with Fadi Afram, chief of staff of the Lebanese forces (Phalangists) by Huda Al-Husayni in Beirut--date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: You are not well known to the public. As chief of staff of the Lebanese [Phalangist] forces you are well known militarily and among your forces. May we know your political aspirations?

Afram: It is still too early to let you know about my political aspirations. There is nothing certain at present. The Lebanese forces began as a military movement but this movement now carries political weight. I, as forces commander at present, carry political weight ex officio. As for the future, it is too early to know my political future.

AL-HAWADITH: I would like to know your present political thinking. Do you have any particular political program, for example, or does your line fall within the Lebanese forces' line?

Afram: The Lebanese forces allow the line set for them by Shaykh Bashir Al-Jumayyil. This line is very clear. Proceeding from the figure of 10,452 square kilometers [Lebanon's total area] we set our practical targets, whether with regard to the determination to stand against partitioning or to the will that Lebanon should remain a democratic country in which every citizen enjoys his rights.

AL-HAWADITH: In other words you will fight against partitioning in Lebanon.

Afram: Of course. This is definite. Whatever the case may be we will reject partitioning because there will no longer be a Lebanon if there is partitioning; it will become something else. The Lebanon we want is the Lebanon that amounts to 10,452 square kilometers.

AL-HAWADITH: It is being said that it is very difficult to fill the vacuum left by Shaykh Bashir Al-Jumayyil. Therefore, I would like to ask you: Will the Lebanese forces be under one single commander or a collective command?

Afram: As you know, there is the Lebanese forces command council headed usually by the commander in chief of the forces. Within this command council there are usually consultations before decisions are taken. But in the final analysis it is the commander in chief who takes the decision. Such military decisions are passed to the general staff which carry them out and the political decisions are implemented by the command council.

AL-HAWADITH: If the command council takes a decision and you reject it, can you take a different decision?

Afram: Certainly. I am the commander.

AL-HAWADITH: Supposing the political Lebanese front command takes a decision, does the military command which is under you comply with such decision or might it have a different stand?

Afram: The final decision for the Lebanese forces is taken by the Lebanese front that embodies all the political parties represented by the military bodies within the Lebanese forces. The final decision lies with the front. So far we have not come across a situation that might cause differences in views.

AL-HAWADITH: How far do the Lebanese forces comply with and respond to decisions taken by the front which is headed by Camille Sham'un.

Afram: Certainly he is chairman of the front. The Lebanese front takes its decisions which apply to all the forces that took part in the [Lebanese] resistance. Initially the Lebanese forces were only a military body and then acquired political stature thanks to what Shaykh Bashir did. Thus, as I said, we inherited a certain political weight.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the points of agreement and disagreement between the Lebanese forces and President Amin Al-Jumayyil. In your speech on the Phalangist Party anniversary you said "he [Amin Al-Jumayyil] is from our miliem and we are for him." How far does this go and are there particular conditions that you impose on him?

Afram: There are absolutely no conditions. On the contrary, we believe that the president of the republic is from our miliem, that is, from the Lebanese resistance. Therefore the goals he is working for are our goals. There is no disagreement between us. I know his objectives. I fought under his command during the years 1975-1976 and I knew him as a resistance figure and his objectives are resistance objectives.

AL-HAWADITH: Don't you think that he has changed since he became president of the republic because of the conditions surrounding him now?

Afram: The thoughts of anyone who becomes president of the republic after having been in the resistance will no longer be concerned with just one

section of the people; his thoughts will become concerned with all the Lebanese people. But as far as the objectives are concerned they remain unchanged, that is the homeland's area will remain 10,452 square kilometers. The country should have a strong authority and a strong army. This is what we want and it was for these objectives that we fought.

AL-HAWADITH: You insist on these objectives despite the fact that events in the [Ash-shuf] Mountains are frightening the people who now say that partitioning could begin with the events in the mountains.

Afram: There is fear and this could spark off partitioning. But if all the parties are aware of the danger, the danger of partitioning, which would be a catastrophe for all the communities which Lebanon comprises, then I believe that we can avoid it. This is particularly true with regard to the mountains which from the beginning are considered Lebanon's backbone and whose unity is the basis of all Lebanon's unity. Therefore, we place emphasis upon alliance and amity prevailing in the mountains.

AL-HAWADITH: How can alliance and amity be maintained while fighting is continuing?

Afram: The solution for the mountains should be a political one because originally it was a political problem and not a sectarian or military problem.

AL-HAWADITH: What is this political problem?

Afram: When the Israeli Army entered Lebanon and ousted the Palestinian and Syrian forces from Beirut and the mountains, the alliance that Walid Junblatt had with those forces collapsed. As a result, his political weight became less. He went abroad. The Lebanese forces then went up to the area and its Christian inhabitants began returning to it. The Lebanese forces had a garrison which was training the inhabitants of the area and all members of the garrison became simply the sons of those inhabitants. When Walid returned from abroad he wanted to regain his political stature. He began with minor political problems so as to appear as if he was the one speaking on behalf of that area and, therefore, to regain his political weight. He succeeded at the beginning but lost control of what happened afterwards. This is because there are within his party secret communist or Fedayeen cells that used his party, and used the Druze community in particular, in order to create and exacerbate problems. So the story assumed a greater dimension. These subversive elements will continue to create these serious problems. A certain agreement must be reached. One of our objectives is that everyone within the 10,452 square kilometers should have equal rights and duties toward the country. Lebanon is for all its children wherever they may be. In other words, we cannot say that the person from Kisirwan cannot go to Ash-shuf or vice versa.

AL-HAWADITH: How can you reach a political solution if a military solution is impossible?

Afram: A military solution is out of the question in the first place.

AL-HAWADITH: How can a political solution be reached?

Afram: Through reaching a certain political agreement. In other words there should be a free Christian presence in Ash-shuf area, a presence that can express its political opinion freely and in the way it wishes. It does not want to live as it did during the past 8 years--as second class citizens that have no right to self-expression. It was for this reason that the [presumably Christian] families left the area.

AL-HAWADITH: There are in Ash-shuf at present rightist forces, Walid Junblatt's followers and the Israelis. Don't you believe that the Israeli presence might hinder a political solution?

Afram: If agreement is reached among the Lebanese parties I do not see how the Israelis can oppose it.

AL-HAWADITH: Did you ask the Israeli forces to withdraw from the mountains?

Afram: This is not our business; it is up to the government to ask.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you think that the Israelis should withdraw from the mountains?

Afram: In our opinion all aliens should withdraw from all of Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: It is being rumoured that within the Lebanese forces, of which you are now commander, there are several loyalties; there is, for example, loyalty to the Phalangist Party, there are the Bashirists [followers of Bashir Al-Jumayyil], and there is also a pro-Israeli line that Israel planted within the forces. How far is this true?

Afram: It is absolutely untrue. The Lebanese forces follow one and the same line, they are one single military body, and have one single command. The decisions adopted by the command apply to everybody. There is no group within the forces that acts the way it pleases and there are no differing groups within the forces.

AL-HAWADITH: Did not the assassination of Bashir Al-Jumayyil create divisions?

Afram: Not at all.

AL-HAWADITH: Did everybody agree that you should be the commander?

Afram: I was elected and not appointed commander of the Lebanese forces. I was elected by the command council one day before Shaykh Bashir's assassination because when he became president of the republic he resigned all his party jobs and his position within the Lebanese forces. Therefore, there was a need to bring in a new commander for the Lebanese forces and so the command council, which represents all the Lebanese parties, elected me.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you thinking of expanding the Lebanese forces so as to include the Shi'ite forces, about which [Shi'ite leader] Nabih Birri is talking, in order to fight the Israeli presence.

Afram: Fight the Israeli presence? Nobody is talking about this idea at present. Let us be realistic and not indulge in dreams as we used to do in the past. With regard to the Lebanese forces, at the beginning they started by protecting a particular area in which the Christians formed a majority, but in recent times Shaykh Bashir was able to give the Lebanese forces a national character. This is proved by the fact that he achieved the presidency on the basis of this point. I believe there is a possibility that elements from all the Lebanese factions will join the Lebanese forces.

AL-HAWADITH: You said in your recent speech on the occasion of the Phalangist Party anniversary that if there was a price to be paid then Lebanon must demand such a price from the Syrians, the Palestinians and the Israelis. Do you mean that withdrawal is the price?

Afram: Withdrawal is not a price but something inevitable and it is our right and not a price.

AL-HAWADITH: Can you achieve it?

Afram: I believe that with the help of foreign countries, particularly the United States, the government will be able to achieve this goal because if we do not achieve withdrawal then a catastrophe will take place because nonwithdrawal means partitioning and we all know the dangers of that.

AL-HAWADITH: You also proposed in your speech that we should be realistic, recognize Israel's existence and conclude a peace agreement with it.

Afram: I called for an end to be put to the state of hostility with Israel as a first step on the grounds that there is no longer any justification for it after the Palestinians have distanced themselves from the Israeli borders. On the other hand I stressed this point because of my fear of the future because the longer the foreign forces stay in Lebanon the more difficult it becomes to oust them. Consequently, the danger of dividing our country into zones of influence, as it is divided now, becomes even greater.

AL-HAWADITH: What will become of the Lebanese forces if the three forces withdraw?

Afram: The Lebanese forces were created in order to fill a certain vacuum; that was when the army collapsed in 1975-1976 and there were no forces to protect the citizens. When the alien forces leave and when the army is able to impose its authority and ensure security for the citizen, then the reason for which the Lebanese forces were created as a military body will no longer exist. In which case it will be up to the president of the republic to decide in practical terms what he wants to do with these forces. He might want to include some of them in the army and another part in the state security organs.

On the other hand, I am sure that many elements of the Lebanese forces wish to go back to civilian life. For example, I am an engineer and I have not yet worked. I have begun to forget everything about engineering.

AL-HAWADITH: You said that you stand with President Amin Al-Jumayyil, but the abolition of the state of hostility and the signing of some sort of security agreement with Israel which you propose on behalf of the Lebanese forces is rejected by the president. He says we do not want any preconditions; we hold negotiations only for withdrawal.

Afram: We express our views as Lebanese forces for the sake of the country's security. President Shaykh Amin is in a very difficult position because he personally is carrying out the contacts and his aim is to preserve Lebanon and its entity so that Lebanon will not be subjected to conditions and pressures. Therefore, he is responsible for the achievement of withdrawals and we will not hamper him or hinder his efforts.

We adopt a particular stand. It is up to him to oust all these forces. If he can do so without giving anything in return to any of the parties then this would be something great. But let us be realistic. Why then do we put... [sentence left incomplete]. Let us look what is on the ground. The Israeli army has paid with 500 dead and thousands of wounded so can it be said that it just went in and out?

AL-HAWADITH: Let us move on to the Sabra and Shatila massacre. The Israeli commission of inquiry acquitted Sa'd Haddad. Does this mean that it is accusing you?

Afram: We have refused to get involved in accusations and counteraccusations with the Israelis. We concentrate on the investigation committee set up by the Lebanese state. Whatever the outcome of this investigation, we shall accept it.

AL-HAWADITH: Who then committed this massacre?

Afram: I will not go into details.

CSO: 4400/129

UNIFIL COMMANDER VIEWS IDF RESTRICTIONS

NC291731 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 20-26 Dec 82 pp 36-43

[Excerpts] The commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, Lieutenant General William Callaghan, protested last week that Israel was restricting the movements of the international troops in south Lebanon in defiance of Security Council resolutions.

In a private interview with MONDAY MORNING at UNIFIL headquarters in An-Naqurah, Callaghan said his troops' movements were still being "restrained" in the border enclave which has been under the control of the Israeli-backed militias of Sa'd Haddad since 1978.

The full interview follows:

[Question] Instead of fulfilling its four-year-old mandate and deploying down to the internationally recognized Lebanese borders, UNIFIL finds itself sandwiched between Israeli lines. So what is UNIFIL doing in the south today?

[Answer] I don't think it is correct to say that UNIFIL is sandwiched between Israeli lines. UNIFIL has retained the position it had prior to the invasion of June 6. It is continuing its mandate. In the main, it is still providing security for the Lebanese people in its area of operations and it is still displaying Lebanese central authority in that area.

I think this is a very practical and positive thing, because when UNIFIL started in 1978, there were less than a thousand people in its area; in June of 1982, there were in excess of a quarter of a million people in that area, and at that time, an additional 150 thousand Lebanese people came into the UNIFIL area of operations. That is obviously an indication of the appreciation of the security being provided, and we continue to provide it.

[Question] So you don't feel that UNIFIL is sandwiched between Israeli lines...

[Answer] I would like to be much freer, of course--absolutely--because freedom of movement is an essential prerequisite for peace-keeping. I

would like to be much freer. UNIFIL has never been given the cooperation or the freedom to which it is entitled.

[Question] So you would say that the problem you had before the Israeli invasion--lack of freedom and lack of cooperation from all the parties concerned--is still the same now, but with...

[Answer] ...With different parties. There are still restrictions, there is still a lack of freedom.

[Question] Apart from this lack of freedom, which seems to be your main problem, no new problems have faced you since the Israeli invasion?

[Answer] Well, the humanitarian problem became more specific with the invasion, of course--accommodations for people, that kind of thing.

But UNIFIL's main problem remains lack of freedom.

It certainly does not have enough freedom. It has never had freedom in the (Sa'd Haddad) enclave; it has been restrained from time to time in the enclave. Also, UNIFIL is now not allowed to fly its helicopters freely. It is not allowed to travel to Beirut except in convoy, and it cannot visit Tyre or Az-Zahrani of Sidon unless it is accompanied by liaison officers.

This is the kind of freedom I am talking about.

[Question] You say your helicopter flights...

[Answer] Many of them are cancelled. We don't have the option of flying when we want to fly.

[Question] Because of the Israelis?

[Answer] Because we don't control all the air space. Somebody else does.

[Question] UNIFIL has been described as a peace-keeping force, not a war-waging machine. In view of the year's events in Lebanon, wouldn't it be more accurate to say that it is neither; that it has lost its *raison d'etre*?

[Answer] Good heavens, not at all--I couldn't agree for a moment. You know, there are quite a few misunderstandings about peace-keeping forces, multinational forces, peace-enforcement forces, etc. A peace-keeping force is a force organized and armed for peace-keeping, for maintaining a peace that has been agreed to. It is usually interposed between parties, and it is there to keep the peace, to give the politicians an opportunity of getting back to the job in which they failed in the first instance and getting a permanent peace set up. Peace-keeping forces are not armed, organized, deployed or mandated for war, nor do they have the maneuverability to be committed to war. That must be very clearly understood.

So to say that UNIFIL has lost its credibility--there is nothing further from the truth. What is wrong is that people don't understand the peace-keeping concept.

[Question] So you don't agree with the general feeling in Lebanon that UNIFIL has lost its *raison d'être*?

[Answer] I don't agree at all, and I don't think that is a general feeling in Lebanon; I can assure you it is not general in Lebanon. I have many contacts with the people of Lebanon at all levels, and they appreciate peace-keeping limitations and UNIFIL's achievements.

[Question] And you believe you can go on with your mission?

[Answer] We are doing it, and we will continue to.

[Question] Despite the problem of lack of freedom of...

[Answer] ...Lack of freedom and cooperation; if you don't have the freedom, you don't have the cooperation. But we still have the zest, and we have learned from the Lebanese people the wonderful trait of resilience. UNIFIL has learned that from Lebanon and is applying it.

[Question] And you don't believe UNIFIL has been as impotent in peace-keeping in the south as the UN has been in preventing hostilities in other parts of the world?

[Answer] I would dismiss that immediately and say that UNIFIL has been extremely successful in keeping the peace in the south for four years--for four years--between parties which were not willing to cooperate. Despite that lack of cooperation, and at a very high loss in terms of casualties, UNIFIL has maintained a peace in south Lebanon for four years.

What I would say is that perhaps the people who should have been working on the political side of the peace weren't as successful as UNIFIL was.

[Question] What people? Who do you mean?

[Answer] Well, politicians--the people who work at a situation before war breaks out.

[Question] Lebanese politicians or...?

[Answer] Well, international politics--all the people who were involved in peace in the Middle East.

[Question] I guess that means the U.S. and...

[Answer] ...You can include them all. But I must say that UNIFIL has been extremely successful...

[Question] ...For four years. But what about the Israeli invasion?

[Answer] Well, I think that is a political failure. I mean, did somebody expect a peace-keeping force which was not mandated, armed, organized or equipped for the job to stop a military invasion by a UN member who opted out of cooperation? No, I don't think so.

[Question] So you would definitely blame the failure on the politicians.

[Answer] It is certainly not a UNIFIL failure--certainly not; in no way, in no way.

[Question] In your opinion, UNIFIL could not have done anything to prevent the Israelis from advancing into south Lebanon...

[Answer] Certainly not.

[Question] So if Lebanon and Israel agree on a security arrangement, UNIFIL may be present there?

[Answer] It can be there, but it is not for me to say. UNIFIL was mandated to be able to do a certain thing. A different organization could be required to deliver what is required in a security situation. It could be UNIFIL or U.N. forces of a different kind.

[Question] Does UNIFIL still provide information to its headquarters in New York on what is happening here on the ground?

[Answer] UNIFIL is in constant contact with New York. It works with New York. I give them the information which I think they should get, commensurate with my mandate.

[Question] So you report what you see--like Israeli troops passing UNIFIL headquarters...

[Answer] I make reports to New York many times during the day, and they contain information regarding the situation in Lebanon. I am not going to tell you what I put in those reports; I don't think you expect me to.

[Question] A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that Lebanon intended to complain to the five permanent members of the Security Council because UNIFIL was being harassed by the Israeli forces in the south. Could you comment on that?

[Answer] I haven't heard of that, but as I told you at the beginning, we suffer from certain restrictions. If these are the restrictions which are going to be complained about, perhaps I will welcome that.

[Question] How many Lebanese army regulars are deployed in the UNIFIL zone now?

[Answer] Some 1,500.

[Question] Has the number changed since Lebanese army units were sent to the south?

[Answer] There have been some reductions in recent times because of demands for Lebanese troops elsewhere.

[Question] In what UNIFIL operations do they participate?

[Answer] They participate in UNIFIL companies at the moment--there are detachments of the Lebanese army with each UNIFIL company. They predominantly do training and security duties for themselves and in cooperation with UNIFIL people.

[Question] When you say "security duties," does that mean they are facing Israeli soldiers?

[Answer] They are in their camps. They are not in confrontation with the Israeli troops. Some steps have been taken to minimize potential problems. We are very much aware of that.

[Question] You say Israel hampers your assistance efforts outside your area?

[Answer] When it comes to supplying required assistance to Tyre, we are not allowed. We are not allowed to go to Tyre--not even in response to a specific request by the Lebanese government for assistance to the hospital in Tyre or a specific request by the Lebanese authorities to help the municipality of Tyre to tidy up the place. We have received these requests, but we have not been allowed to do it so far--although it was added to our mandate in June that we should extend humanitarian assistance to those in need there. We have been told we are not allowed to operate outside UNIFIL's area.

[Question] By the Israelis?

[Answer] Yes. This is the situation now.

[Question] How would you describe the attitude of the southerners towards UNIFIL after the Israeli invasion?

[Answer] I would say the attitude has always been positive, and I think, perhaps, it has been more positive since then. All the mukhtars and others become very anxious when the question of the extension of the mandate comes up. They very much want UNIFIL to stay.

CSO: 4400/129

MINISTER MURUWWAH DISCUSSES LABOR, HEALTH PROBLEMS

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 289, 15-21 Nov 82
pp 18-19

[Interview with Dr 'Adnan Muruwah, minister of public health & social affairs, by Hashim Qasim: "Dr 'Adnan Muruwah: It Is Not Enough To Correct Deviations; People's Mentality Must Be Changed"]

[Text] From the position of the specialist and the serious observer, Dr 'Adnan Muruwah, minister of public health & social affairs, is trying to formulate a complete concept to solve the issues and problems of the two ministries and to draw up a work plan that is at the beginning of the path open to Lebanon under current conditions.

The solutions don't come ready-made to him and do not work right unless the efforts of all state agencies are united. Therefore, when Minister Muruwah projects the points of his main plan, he puts them with the framework of a complete government plan. The decision is not up to one ministry in particular but up to a policy of change adopted and observed by the ministry.

The new thing Dr Muruwah brings is his view of the Lebanese countryside, of the means to develop and enhance it and of the endeavors to bring it out of its past and to put it on the path of a development and growth balanced with and equal to that of the cities and other areas of Lebanon.

SL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI has conducted the following interview with Minister Muruwah on the Lebanese countryside's backwardness, the concentration of the state agencies in the cities, the cities' swallowing of the lion's share of the growth rates, the problems of Lebanese and foreign workers and health, medical care and hospital problems:

Training and Elements

[Question] In your capacity as the minister of labor and social affairs, can you give the reader an idea of the labor and worker problems created by the war and the solutions that you will adopt?

[Answer] The war has hit all of the utilities, especially the Ministry of Labor & Social Affairs, because it was in a hot area that was impossible to reach in order to help offer services. But the war has added another problem to the already existing problems. It is expected that this problem will intensify and will have its ramifications, including the question of how to train all the armed people who waged the war without any controls, rules or regulations. The question is: How can these armed elements be trained to enter the labor market and be able to join and contribute to a normal, balanced and productive life?

One of the solutions projected is to provide vocational training for numerous sectors needed by the country, with the training provided by either private or government agencies.

Another problem is that of the emigration of a large part of the Lebanese labor force to Arab and Foreign countries in search of security and stability. According to (ACUA) estimates, this emigration now amounts to nearly 250,000 workers. This has created a large void. The shortage we are now experiencing in the construction sector as a result of the increasing demand for this sector's services is a clear indication of the existence of this crisis.

[Question] So there are major problems, some of which you have referred to. Is there a plan and are there means to help solve them?

[Answer] There are private sector organizations concerned with vocational training. There are also official institutions, such as the National Employment Institution and the institutions controlled by the Vocational and Technological Training Directorate. But all of these are not enough to accommodate a sufficient number of those who need to be trained.

In fact, we need to change the people's mentality insofar as vocational training as a whole is concerned, not simply correct deviations and mistakes that will inevitably disappear. Insofar as educational guidance is concerned, we find that most people enroll their children in medicine, engineering and theoretical sciences. Only 5 percent of those who pass the baccalaureat examination turn to vocational training. This is a very low percentage and means that there is a flaw in directing qualified people and in the system of social values. The status of the skilled worker on the social ladder is still hostage to the values of the past. The doctor, engineer and school teacher are more important, as far as social status is concerned, than the skilled worker, even though a number of vocational skills can produce a higher income.

We Need Change

[Question] Don't you think that the reasons for this are rooted in the existing economic system, which imposes a certain type of education, and that the flaw in the social values system is connected with the existing economic system?

[Answer] The situation needs to be changed and change requires entering people's minds. This is a slow process that does not produce rapid results. Therefore, beneficial plans and means must be established to produce the desired change. The government must be committed to positive change so that Lebanese society can achieve a qualitative leap. When the change becomes a goal, the efforts become united and flow in the direction of this change. Beirut used to monopolize all of the services, and there was a vacuum and paralysis in the rural areas. This is why the villagers' ambition was to migrate to Beirut, even though this migration provided him with no more than tin shacks or very modest housing in the capital's suburbs. Between his situation in the village and his poor living and housing conditions in the city and its suburbs, the villager opted for the latter.

The migration has always been in one direction, i.e., from the village to the city. This migration to the city resulted from the poor rural conditions embodied in low agricultural production and the fragmentation of agricultural ownership to small holdings incapable of generating enough income for the rural family to live on.

[Question] If the situation existing between the Lebanese provinces and Lebanese cities is so unbalanced and unequal, then what is the solution you will work to implement?

[Answer] The state must resort to offering special services to the countryside, such as developmental, health, educational and social services. It must also boost the vocational training provided to rural workers so that the rural labor market will be able to absorb the workers' capacity in their own areas and so that these workers are not forced to emigrate to the city. This is one solution. It is also possible to move factories to rural areas.

[Question] The Lebanese rural population has always lived in a marginal situation, failing to contribute to political life as a major force. It has also lived in a barren economic and social situation. This is what led to the emergence of rebellion and discontent and to the growth of the angry movements. Where is the solution and what are the means?

[Answer] The rural population has lived on the peripheries and has, to a large extent, been unable to develop effective political pressure. Such a force has always been in the city. The cities and their politicians have almost monopolized the state institutions. The urban population has gotten the lion's share and the countryside has been neglected. The solution lies in providing the countryside with development services as a complete and comprehensive package so that it can be revived and developed in a balanced and fair fashion. One possible measure is to move factories to the countryside, to exempt them from taxes and to facilitate the means of transportation. Such measures will produce the added benefit of providing work to the villagers and making their life acceptable and equal to that of the urban population. Moreover, the countryside must

be provided with hospitals similar to those built in the cities. Let me again stress that neglecting the countryside and the rural population has entrenched fatalism in their views and their outlook on life. To them, every thing is from God. Whether it rains or not, whether they get sick or not, it is from God. We must help the Lebanese rural citizen become his own master, stir his ambition and push him forward.

[Question] Doyou view what you have mentioned as a complete solution?

[Answer] The rebellion that has surfaced in more than one part of the Lebanese countryside is the result of official negligence. This must be dealt with by providing full services to the countryside. As for the phenomena you mentioned in your previous question, they will disappear and vanish. Rather, the rural inhabitants will cling more firmly to their land, their homeland and their state. In the wake of the tribulation, there has developed a profound sense that Lebanon is the ultimate and eternal homeland of all Lebanese from all provinces, provided that the state learns from what has happened and distributes benefits to all. If we don't do this, the curse will spare nobody. These words mean political, administrative and developmental controls and criteria for all of Lebanon. This is why devoting attention to the economic growth rate alone is not enough. Establishing a balance between the economic aspect and the human living aspect has become essential and urgent now because the difference in the illiteracy rate, the health indicators and the birth rates in the various areas should not persist.

[Question] As minister of labor and social affairs and as chairman of the Family Planning Association, can you give us a projection through which we can surpass clannish structures, tribal relations and sectarian relations in the direction of establishing the family and of overcoming the causes of social fragmentation [al-tashayyu']?

[Answer] There are families, clans, relations and values created by these structures. However, the family exists and the guarantees that it offers its members are not offered by the clan. Moreover, some of what is offered by the clan must not be smashed and demolished before an alternative is found, meaning that when the state is the big family, then the various tribal and blod relationships that lead to fragmentation disappear.

[Question] What services are offered by the Family Planning Association?

[Answer] Guidance and social services. However, the association's main role is to highlight the existing population problems. This is why the association has tried to get the state to participate and has tried to familiarize it with the demographic problems so that the state can formulate solutions for them when the general planning is completed. It is axiomatic that we should know the number of people in need fo schools or hospitals. The ultimate goal is to lead the family to social prosperity.

[Question] Let us return to the institutions you plan to set up to provide vocational training for those who took part in the war so that you can put them on the path to sound citizenship.

[Answer] We have no precise statistics on these people. It is true that they have abandoned their weapons, but they still exist. Some of them have returned to their work but some are still loitering. The structures available to us are not adequate to accommodate these people. The private institutions that can help have limited resources (al-'Amiliyah Institution, the Benevolence and Charity Association). As for the official institutions, there are the schools controlled by the Vocational and Technological Education Directorate and the Ministry of Labor's Employment Agency, which contracts with private organizations that provide intensive vocational training. Naturally, this training is subject to labor market needs. We are studying this problem to find ways to solve it.

[Question] Will you not establish new institutions controlled by the Ministry of Labor?

[Answer] No, but there is the Unionist Institution in al-Qalamun, which was established recently.

[Question] Do you have ambitions to go on with the establishment of such institutions in all Lebanese provinces?

[Answer] The ambition is there but we don't have the resources.

Law for All

[Question] In the wake of the war, the problem of the unavailability of labor has emerged as a result of the departure of the Syrian workers (some statistics estimate their number at 200,000). This is in addition to what is being said here and there about barriers being erected against the granting of work permits. What is the problem and what does the Ministry of Labor say?

[Answer] We will apply the law to whomever works without a permit. What is required for any foreign worker is to regulate his presence at his work to make this presence legal. As for the talk about difficult or forbidding restrictions being imposed on the granting of work permits, it is untrue.

[Question] Will what is applied to the Syrian also be applied to the Palestinian?

[Answer] Yes, but the partial forgery that has taken place in the records of the Palestinians requires that the identity cards be reexamined. The Palestinian is normally exempt from needing a work permit.

[Question] Because of the events that have lasted 8 years, there are workers who stopped working or who have been suspended. What is their number and fate and will any compensation be paid to them?

[Answer] The ministry has statistics on these people but I am not familiar with them. As for the compensation, it comes from the Social Security.

[Question] Many believe that the Ministry of Health did not perform its medical role during the events. It was paralyzed and its hospitals and clinics became incapable and unqualified. What do you think and what is this ministry's role vis-a-vis what is happening in the private hospitals?

[Answer] Because of the paralysis afflicting its governmental facilities, the Ministry of Health concluded contracts with private institutions and hospitals to provide medical assistance to the citizens. The agreement stipulated that the hospitals concerned acquire a permit from the ministry empowering them to render medical care and treatment, provided that each hospital had a quota for patients. Consequently, a patient may go to a hospital to be treated but be turned down because the number of beds for which a contract is concluded with the ministry may be completely used. I would like to stress that any Lebanese can have medical care at the expense of the Ministry of Health, provided that the cost does not exceed 500 Lebanese pounds.

[Question] Some hospitals have been destroyed or damaged as a result of the fighting. This requires that these government hospitals be repaired or rebuilt. When will this happen?

[Answer] We are exerting efforts with international organizations to get aid. However, there are hospitals that need no repairs or manpower. These are the ones we are trying to operate at present.

[Question] Is there a plan to develop the work of and to refurbish hospitals in the provinces, especially when we know that some of these hospitals perform the role of a shelter to a large degree?

[Answer] One of the solutions is to give each government hospital a degree of independence so that its management can be supervised by a local committee from the area. I believe that this is a beneficial step. The ministry will then be a ministry of custodianship and guidance that draws up the broad lines and exerts efforts for their application and implementation. This means that the resident of al-Nabatiyah, Halba or Ba'labakk has a greater awareness and knowledge of his problems than the general director of health or the minister of health. In any case, decentralization must be strengthened and the intrinsic initiative must be released because they can help greatly in overcoming the existing problems. The promulgation of the hospitals law may also act as an assisting factor.

[Question] Does the Ministry of Health's plan provide for building new hospitals?

[Answer] Health needs are increasing every day. The studies and the plans are nearly ready, provided that foreign financing is made available. We are working to take measures to devote attention to the prevention aspect because prevention is more important than cure and its cost is low compared to that of treatment. This is why the ministry is studying the question of taking measures that guarantee school protection and child health. We are also working to build sound and healthy water and sewage networks and to spread health education.

8494

CSO: 4404/121

BRIEFS

DETAINEES FREED--Beirut, Dec 26 (AFP)--The Lebanese authorities have freed around 300 Palestinians held since October by the Lebanese army, residents in the Palestinian refugee camps here reported today. The residents said that those released yesterday were from the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, the site of a mass slaughter last September. Another group of Palestinian prisoners from the Burj Al-Barajinah camp south of here will be freed in the next 48 hours, they said. A committee set up by the prisoners' families has been demanding the release of around 1,000 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners. [Text] [NC261833 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 26 Dec 82]

LARGE HEROIN QUANTITY SEIZED--The security forces hunted down a notorious narcotics smuggler and seized 3 kilograms of heroin which were found in his possession. The value of this quantity is estimated at \$1 million. This is the largest quantity of heroin seized so far in Lebanon and in the world. It was prepared for smuggling to the United States. [Text] [NC282333 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Dec 82]

UNIFIL ROLE--Diplomatic interest at the Foreign Ministry today centered on the question of renewing the UNIFIL mandate in southern Lebanon. Within this framework, foreign minister Dr Elie Salim met at 0830 [0630 GMT] today with representatives of the states taking part in UNIFIL, namely Ghana, The Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Nigeria, Norway and Sweden. The talks at the meeting dealt with the role of these forces in the south and the amendments which Lebanon will call for when the renewal of the forces' mandate is due on 19 January. Diplomatic sources have said that the Lebanese amendments to this role are not clear as yet in their final form, and that they are still subject to study and consultations between Lebanon and the states participating in the UN force. [Text] [NC301216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 82]

CSO: 4400/129

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN POLAND INTERVIEWED

Warsaw SZTANDAR MLODYCH in Polish 29 Nov 82 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Faud Jaseen, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) representative in Poland, by Wiktor Weggi; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question]: Ambassador, every year on the 29th of November the world celebrates the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This date was not chosen by an accident. It was on 29 November 1947 that the United Nations Organization [UNO] passed the resolution, which divided Palestine into two states: Arab and Jewish. Has the Palestinian view of this resolution changed from the perspective of 35 years since that eventful date?

[Answer]: No, because it could not have changed. And I do not believe that it has. After all, our fatherland was divided. Were the Poles happy when Russia, Austria, and Prussia partitioned their country? Did they stop to fight for its unification, for an independent and sovereign state? Do they believe today that this division was right and do they believe that they had committed fundamental errors in their national liberation struggle? Some say that had we accepted in 1947 the UNO resolution things would have been different today. I doubt that very much. Besides such speculations do not lead anywhere. We have now the year 1982, filled with tragic events, and we must consider above all the reality of it instead of speculating what would have happened.

[Question]: By tragic events you mean the Israeli aggression in Lebanon and the massacres of the Palestinian people in the Sabra and Shatila camps in Beirut....

[Answer]: We got out of Beirut. It was the most humanitarian decision made by the Palestinians. Its aim was to save the lives of more than 200,000 of Lebanese and Palestinian people in that city. Everybody knows that our military situation in Beirut was not hopeless. We had thousands of fighters ready to fight to the last drop of blood. We had enough arms and ammunition to last us at least 6 months.

We got out of Beirut with American guarantees, given to us through the Lebanese government, that the Palestinian population would not be harmed, whereas in exchange for our humanitarian decision an awful crime was committed on the

Palestinian people--massacres in Sabra and Shatila. It was committed by the hands of the Israeli army and that part of the Lebanese Right cooperating with it. The world found out that Habib's guarantees were just empty words. What happened at Sabra and Shatila proves the cowardice of the Israeli military commanders. Unable to defeat the Palestinian fighters they decided to take it out on the Palestinian civilian population. The myth of the invincible Israeli military machine--believed by the world and most of all by the Israelis--was destroyed.

Question: There are voices, particularly in the West, suggesting that the recognition of Israel by the PLO will bring about a speedy and successful resolution. Is the PLO ready to do that?

Answer: These voices are nothing more than a sabotage. We shall not take up that idea until Israel recognizes the right of the Palestinians to have their own, sovereign fatherland. To move ahead one cannot put a carriage before the horse. Perhaps, a mutual recognition of both parties may constitute the final process of a solution to the Middle East conflict, but not a precondition of such. And so far, Israel has not taken any steps in that direction.

There is also another natural barrier. How to recognize a state which practically does not recognize itself. Yes, it does not. After all, every state must have clearly defined territorial borders, specified number of people living in it, and a constitution, or a fundamental law governing its affairs. Israel does not meet any of these requirements.

After all, which are Israel's borders? The ones drawn in the 1947 UNO resolution? Or the enlarged ones in 1948 as a result of the war with the Arabs. Or the ones established after Israel's aggression on its neighbors in 1956 and 1967? Or perhaps those marked out by the Camp David accords, or the separatist peace treaty concluded with Egypt? Or those established after the Israeli aggression in Lebanon in 1982? Or perhaps the borders described in the Bible?

Question: ...from the Nile to the Euphrates....

Answer: Yes, perhaps, even farther than that. On various occasions Israel talks about different borders: historic, geographic, political, and strategic. What for every peace-loving state ought to be a constant and lasting element in Israel's case is an element of circumstance, which depends on the current state of affairs in the Middle East and in the world. And how big is the population of Israel? Is it a little more than 3 million of Jews inhabiting it? Or perhaps 3.5 million of Jews in the Soviet Union and nearly 4 million of American Jews ought to be added to this number? Or perhaps one ought to add 16 million people of Jewish descent dispersed throughout the world? Begin ought to define it once and for all. I recall a memorable incident during my visit in the United States in 1974. I talked with a young American lady, who had attended a lecture by Moshe Dayan, then Israeli defense minister. The main theme of this lecture was that there is a need for a Jewish state so that the Jews could feel, in it, like first-class citizens. The lady asked Dayan if the Jews were not first-class citizens outside

Israel. She also answered it herself by stating that in the United States they are a super class.

Finally, the problem of the constitution. To this day we do not know what kind of a state Israel is, or what kind of state it intends to be. And we do not know what kind of constitutional principles guide its foreign and domestic policies. Judging from its actions, aggression is the supreme to which Israel is loyal without limits.

Question: The fedayeen got out of Beirut; they have been placed in seven Arab countries and the same happened to the PLO leaders. I think that this can give birth to the feeling of impotence, and it undoubtedly interferes with carrying out an effective struggle for the right to return to the fatherland.

Answer: These are the realities, but there is no need to give them such a pessimistic interpretation. We have entered a difficult period, but we had many such difficult periods in the past. Man's nature is to consider the oppressive situation he finds himself in as incomparably worse than the previous one. The world has many times counted us out, for example, after the Israeli aggression in June 1967, or after the departure of the Palestinians from Jordan, and yet we still exist and fight. In fact, after each crisis we become more consolidated and sure of the legitimacy of the idea we fight for. The same is true today. Our fighters appear again in the right place at the right time.

Question: Will the fedayeen appear on the west bank of Jordan and in the Gaza strip? In my opinion the resistance of the Palestinian people living there has not yet reached desirable dimensions....

Answer: Do you know what an occupation is? Poland was occupied for 6 years, but the Jordan's West Bank has been for 15 years. Besides military technology was different then. Today not that many soldiers are needed if they are well armed and have to their disposal tanks, artillery, and planes. And the United States makes sure that the Israeli soldier does not lack anything. The Palestinian people on Jordan's West Bank and the Gaza strip have been simply imprisoned and yet there is no single day without some kind of sabotage or armed action against the occupational forces. Demonstrations, strikes, attacks on police and military posts, and shooting at military convoys are an everyday occurrence. For example, recently a young boy killed an Israeli soldier with a knife. Note, a knife against a rifle.

Question: Ambassador, the Palestinians are characterized by intelligence, courage, and perseverance. I call it the Palestinian phenomenon. The 4-million nation, living in a diaspora, exhibits unusually strong family ties and contains the highest number in the Arab world of educated people. Palestinian culture and arts flourish. I believe that this phenomenon is responsible for the sleepless nights of the Israeli authorities. I believe it was Moshe Dayan, who once said that it is necessary to destroy the Palestinian culture, because one Palestinian poem has the strength of 20 Israeli soldiers....

Answer: In this case I agree with Dayan. But the explanation of the Palestinian phenomenon--as you call it--is very simple: the love of the fatherland which increases with the challenge. It is this challenge that demands from us a Spartan life, but also makes us look with optimism to the future. We learn not only for ourselves, but most of all for the future independent Palestine. My father was killed by the Zionist thugs. My mother, myself, and my younger brothers and sisters moved first to Syria, then to Egypt. I had to work to provide for our family, but I also went to school. I graduated from the university, and my brothers and sisters completed their education.

The Palestinian phenomenon....Yes, phenomenon. My 4-year-old daughter lives between Damascus and Warsaw and experiences different environments; she speaks with a Palestinian accent. This came about naturally.

At Georgetown University I talked with an American scholar, who maintained that the Palestinian personality belies a certain sociological theory. According to that theory, the more difficult living conditions are experienced by a society and the farther are its aims the more it becomes subject to universal frustration and the higher its criminal statistics. This theory has not been proven right to the displeasure of Israel and the United States, which hoped that the Palestinians would be paralyzed by an internal decay and thus the Palestinian question would die a natural death. We live and we shall live. We fight and we shall fight.

Question: Yasir Arafat once compared the Palestinian people to a sponge. At some point it seems that it has been totally squeezed out with hardly anything left out, but then it suddenly comes back to its former shape, even grows and gains weight....

Answer: Yes, this is the way the Palestinian people are. Every killed fighter is immediately replaced by a dozen or so other fighters, who believe that the right cause will prevail.

Question: Thank you for this conversation.

8609

CSO: 2600/122

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

KUWAITI DAILY INTERVIEWS PDRY PRESIDENT

LD301036 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 30 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Dec (KUNA)--PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said in an interview published here today that his country is seeking to achieve peaceful coexistence with the states of the region. He added that the two Yemens are working for the restoration of Yemeni unity on a sound and democratic basis. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said in the interview published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH that continuation of the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran "serves the increase of tension in the region."

In his recent interview with the paper in Aden, the PDRY president told the Kuwaiti paper that his country is steadily going ahead "to achieve relations of peaceful coexistence and fruitful cooperation with states of the region in a manner that would preserve our people's security and stability and keep them away from the dangers of U.S. imperialism's expansionist aggressive plans."

President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stressed that "the basic trend of our policy toward states of the region is to work toward preservation of the security and stability of the region's peoples and to keep the region away from the dangers of the aggressive military presence of imperialist forces, for equality, sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs. It is from this basis that we assess the kinds of cooperation and coordination between our country and the neighboring fraternal countries. Consolidation of trust and understanding among our countries depends on how much cooperation is attained in repelling the danger of the foreign presence and in preserving the resources and security of the peoples of the region."

With regard to the PDRY's relations with its neighbor the sultanate of Oman, with which it was recently reconciled in accordance with an agreement reached in Kuwait, President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: "Our relations with Oman will be established on the basis of the agreement of principles signed in Kuwait last October. These principles are no different from the six principles on which our relations with Saudi Arabia were founded in 1976...[KUNA ellipsis] as they express the main thrust of our foreign policy toward the states of the region with regard to establishing equal relations, mutual respect, fruitful cooperation based on peaceful coexistence

and noninterference in internal affairs. We do not see our relationship with Oman as a new course in our foreign policy because we have been establishing relations with various states of the region for sometime. Our relations with Oman have followed this trend in our invariable foreign policy."

Replying to a question about press reports that southern Yemen is turning toward the West, President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: "In fact, we have one face and our policy is clearly explained in the party's program. There is no change in it. The only thing is that understanding of some of our policy bases by some people seems to have come late. They have rushed to wrongly portray the situation, whether because of ignorance of the bases and aims on which our foreign policy has been founded for so many years, or because of casting doubt about our policy prompted by their continuation of stands against our regime. At any rate this does not bother us, because we know what we want all our activities reflect how much care we show in the interest of our people. The aims of our people are embodied in such activities. As for the presence of our embassies in Britain and France, this goes back to the beginning of independence, namely 15 years ago."

The PDRY has a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

CSO: 4400/128

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

ARAB FUND LOAN--Abu Dhabi, 19 Dec (WAM)--The Arab Fund has agreed to offer the PDRY a compensatory loan of 3.920 million arithmetic Arabian dinars, which is equivalent to \$12.800 million. This was stated by the head of the Arab Fund, who told WAM that this loan will be used to confront the emergency situation in the balance of payments in the PDRY during 1982 as a result of the decrease in exports and the increase of agricultural imports due to the damage caused by the floods that hit the PDRY in the spring of 1982. [GF200534 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Dec 82 GF]

PDRY-CSSR LOAN AGREEMENT--Talks between the PDRY delegation, led by brother 'Abdallah Sa'id 'Abaddal, deputy planning minister, and the CSSR delegation, led by Comrade Josef (Kotche), director of the foreign trade department, concluded at the Planning Ministry today. The talks were concluded with signing of a loan agreement in which the CSSR will loan the PDRY \$2,650,000 to make geological maps of the PDRY. According to this agreement, the CSSR will cover 16,500 km in a geological survey and prepare geological maps for 5 years beginning in 1983. [Text] [GF201818 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82 GF]

ARAB FUND TO PDRY--An agreement was signed in Kuwait yesterday between the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund and our country whereby the Fund will loan our country 1.2 million Kuwaiti dinars to finance the fifth joint international telecommunications project. On the PDRY side, the agreement was signed by our ambassador to Kuwait 'Ali 'Aydarus Yahya and on the Fund side it was signed by its director general and chairman of its board of directors. [Excerpt] [GF210526 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82 GF]

PDRY-SOVIET TALKS--During his meeting with Comrade Lysenko, deputy Soviet fish industry minister, Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee, discussed bilateral relations in the field of fisheries. Brother Anis Hasan Yahya expressed our country's appreciation for the aid and assistance the Soviet Union extends to our country which contributed to the advancement of work in this field. [Excerpt] [GF210526 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82 GF]

'ANA' ENGLISH TRANSMISSION--Aden, 2 Jan (ANA)--Aden News Agency commences its English transmission on 2 January 1983, to the Arab and foreign countries for a period of one hour per day on the frequency 19565 from 1800 G.M.T. up to 1900 G.M.T. The external transmission will cover a number of Arab, socialist and European countries. This transmission of great importance, comes within the framework of the current developments which are witnessed by ANA in all the spheres with the aim of acquainting the outer world with the developments and accomplishments that witnessed by Democratic Yemen at all political economic, social and cultural levels. [Text] [GF021915 Aden ANA in English 1853 GMT 2 Jan 83]

ENERGY ISSUES DISCUSSED--Talks between the delegation of the Petroleum and Minerals Authority, led by Brother 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, chairman of the Petroleum and Minerals Authority and candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of industry, and the OAPEC delegation led by 'Ali Ahmad 'Atiqah, OAPEC secretary general, began today. The two delegations discussed the energy situation in the PDRY, the future scopes of energy, the results of the second Arab energy conference and its recommendations on regulating the energy situation in the Arab countries and Arab cooperation in the energy field. The two delegations also discussed traditional and new energy issues and the possibility of cooperation and making use of all cheap energy alternatives. The OAPEC delegation put forward its view on the scope of cooperation between the Petroleum and Minerals Authority and energy bodies and between OAPEC. [Text] [GF281900 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Dec 82]

CSO: 4400/128

'RIYADH' ON U.S. ROLE, ISRAELI-LEBANESE TALKS

GF012026 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Commentary by Hashim 'Abduh Hashim]

[Text] What Israel does not wish to understand is that it cannot impose on the Arabs a forcible coexistence with it; that it cannot place the region's states before a fait accompli that has to be accepted and that can continue from one generation to another; and that it cannot choose the mode of peace and stability to serve its existence and secure its perpetual stability at the expense of the region's peoples and states. If it only realized these facts it would have abandoned the policy of imposing solutions, escalating crises, disrupting issues and spending too much time and effort in searching marginal and detailed issues in order to drive the Arabs to desperation and make them submit to a fait accompli and accept the minimum limit of demands so as to rescue the continuity of its growing existence in the region.

It is true that the Arabs want peace. However, it is more accurate to say that Israel dreams that this peace will take place the way it wants it. What it is doing now in Lebanon is a form of bargaining, exhaustion of Arab energy and dissipation of the efforts that are aimed at settling the issues.

The Israelis now practice the toughest type of bargaining in order to impose normalization of relations on Lebanon thinking that Lebanon is prepared to accept any Israeli conditions including the termination of the state of war in order to complete the normalization of relations. It is this very thing that has exposed Israel's intentions for its invasion of Lebanon. These intentions assert Israel's determination to pursue the policy of imposing peace on the Arabs while keeping the previously occupied Arab territories and refusing to recognize any Palestinian rights while hoping to end the discussion of this issue once and for all. This means that Israel's claim that its invasion and military operations in southern Lebanon, then in the heart of Lebanon and then in all Lebanon were merely preventive operations in order to secure what it called the safety of the Galilee. This claim is not true. What is true is that the Israelis found an appropriate opportunity to exploit the shattered Lebanese situation and

enter the gate of this situation under this cover and under the slogan of protecting Lebanon from the threats of the Palestinian commandos as it claimed.

All this has now become clear. It is even clearer that the Israelis want to reach their goals with as little expense as possible. This is evident from their attempt to avoid fighting on Lebanon's territory, their eagerness for political solutions and their preparation of the Lebanese populace to accept what they want. All this happens at the time when Lebanon aspires to cleanse its territories of every Israeli soldier and settle the question of the Lebanese pocket created by Sa'd Haddad in southern Lebanon and start at the same time building the independent and stable Lebanese state.

If the Israelis believe they are able to settle many questions and achieve their greater ambitions at the expense of the Lebanese in such an easy manner, they are making a big mistake because Lebanon will not benefit from the withdrawal of the Israeli forces if it is committed to having open relations with an aggressive entity that aspires to exchange the military invasion with an economic, intellectual and cultural invasion.

The United States must confirm its desire to secure Lebanon's independence by imposing a pressuring U.S. role that will stop these bargaining tactics, free Lebanon from these pressures and save it from additional losses, because the push for time in enforcing the agenda of the talks reflects the deliberate Israeli intentions of prolonging the duration of negotiations, disrupting stands and making new gains while exploiting Lebanon's current situation and its future ambitions. However, the United States can push the current negotiations forward if it desires to settle the issue and enable Lebanon to stand on its feet by canceling the idea of normalization, doing without the principle of good neighborliness and concentrating on the main problem that resulted from the entry of the Israeli forces into the Lebanese territories. These negotiations should not have taken place in the shade of occupation and forcible threats because they will encourage Israel--before anyone else--in the future to occupy more lands, bargain over them and impose direct dialogue with the parties concerned under the pretext of settling the problems that stem from invasion. This method will be enjoyed by the Israelis who will adopt it continuously and obtain with it some sort of recognition for themselves.

In all circumstances, stability in Lebanon will not be the gate for peace in the region unless Lebanon can guarantee its independence and freedom, unless the Israeli forces withdraw from its territory and unless it settles its problems with all the other parties and lives a real peace. Unless this happens, the U.S. role continues to be deficient, weak and ineffective because the presence of a U.S. representative as a third party without any effectiveness is not sufficient for taking the dialogue to its destination, that is, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all of Lebanon.

CSO: 4400/130

SAUDI PRESS COMMENTS ON REAGAN-KING HUSAYN TALKS

LD231529 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Dec 82

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Dec (SPA)--Commenting on the visit to Washington by Jordan's King Husayn and on his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and their effect on the level of American-Israeli relations and on peace in the Middle East, AL-JAZIRAH said Israel is not [as received] defying the determination of President Reagan to find a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East or the establishment of Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip--according to his peace initiative or to the unified Arab people plan--but is placing him in an extremely critical position as head of super power state who now enjoys the trust of the majority of parties concerned in the conflict, including the Palestinian side, which has shown a great flexibility by accepting the unified Arab peace plan. In this connection the paper pointed out the mention of such an inclination in President Reagan's welcoming speech to the Jordanian monarch at the White House yesterday.

The paper dealt with Israeli actions during the past long years, which were aimed at annexing more land and at establishing more settlements on the occupied Arab territories. It added that the rejection of President Reagan's initiative by the government of the Israeli enemy and its reply of building more settlements is considered an escalation of Israeli defiance of America.

AL-JAZIRAH wondered if the American President will accept such defiance of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, a peace that will not be achieved with the presence of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

On the same topic and under the heading "Positive Progress in Husayn-Reagan Talks," Ukaz pointed out that positive progress is about to be achieved during the next few days through the talks between the Jordanian monarch and the American President. It warned that without specific American guarantees or undertakings to achieve a comprehensive and just solution to the question of the Palestinian people, it would be useless for the Arab nation to continue peace efforts without getting prepared with all the influence at its disposal to seize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to self-determination and to

the establishment of their independent state on their territory. The paper said that the Arab nation has given the peace efforts and the American role in them every possible opportunity to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the region. It called on U.S. President Reagan to implement the clause in his initiative concerning the halting of the Israeli settlements as a first step in winning the confidence of the Palestinians.

CSO: 4400/130

U.S. 'FORCING' UNCONDITIONAL RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

LD271528 Riyadh SPA in English 1240 GMT 27 Dec 82

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 27, SPA--A Saudi newspaper today accused the United States of trying to force Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to recognise the Zionist entity unconditionally and without even a promise that the U.S. would take firm action to prevent further Israeli annexation of Arab land.

The Mecca newspaper AN-NADWA said it was important that the Arabs should take earnest and responsible action in the face of these American attempts and said Washington would never compromise over the survival of Israel because U.S. Middle East policy was based on a continued Israeli presence in the area.

The Jidda newspaper 'UKAZ, commenting on the proposed negotiations between Israel and Lebanon in the Beirut suburb of Khaldeh, said Israel was trying to undermine the talks in any way possible, and so to pursue its expansionist ambitions in Lebanon.

It said Israeli prevarication confirmed Israel's rejection of peace efforts and put the U.S. in a difficult position.

The newspaper accused Israel of rekindling sectarian feuds in parts of Lebanon and of trying to impose unreasonable conditions for its withdrawal.

The Khaldeh talks, it added, would test the sincerity of American efforts to achieve peace in the region.

CSO: 4400/130

SAUDI ARABIA

'RIYADH' COMMENTATOR ON NEW NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE

GF191412 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Hashim 'Abduh Hashim news analysis]

[Excerpts] Does civilization mean having more buildings and establishments? This question was answered by the national guard at an early time to stress that civilization means creating men who achieve a better future. Since that time, Prince 'Abdallah Ibn 'Abd Al-'Aziz, regent, crown prince and head of the national guard, continued to stress this conception until he was able to create a generation of believers in the message of this homeland in bolstering the intrinsic power to protect the Arab and Islamic nations not to mention securing the safety of this country and its children with the means of the valiant and strong armed forces.

Those who follow the steps of the national guard in all fields realize that there is determination that this civilized establishment will participate in protecting the country's security and its independence and in shouldering great responsibilities that this country bears toward its brothers and friends and the stability in the region in general. This determination affirms that each sector and each department seeks with all that it possesses of power and effort and with all the support it receives to bolster the march of this homeland and guarantee its progress and guarantee the tranquility of its citizens.

There is no doubt that this new academy represents a great establishment that future generations will remember its contributions in educating youth, allowing them to gain more experience and preparing them to bear more burdens with power and ability.

This new Islamic military establishment represents a new support for the sublime goals that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is seeking to achieve in the interest of every Arab and Muslim. It is not strange that the national guard participates in bearing a great part of this responsibility so long as the care of the supreme commander his majesty King Fahd embraces this sector and so long as there are among his men those who are anxious to achieve these goals, ready to perform their duty and prepared to bear responsibilities at all times.

CSO: 4400/130

SAUDI PAPER ON KING FAHD'S MEDIATION EFFORTS

GF211426 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 20 Dec 82 p 1

[Exclusive to AL-MADINAH from 'Abdallah Al-'Amri]

[Text] AL-MADINAH has learned that his majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd Al-'Aziz will propose in the coming weeks an initiative of Arab reconciliation that will have a significant and comprehensive impact on the entire region. This initiative will be made during his expected visit to Syria, during which his majesty will mediate to reconcile between Syria and Iraq, and Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO. It is worth mentioning that his majesty King Fahd had been assigned by the Fes summit to bring about an end to Arab differences and put an end to the Iran-Iraq war. In this regard, his majesty visited both Algeria and Morocco. These visits resulted in propitious signs of rapprochement between the two Arab countries, the results of which will soon come to light. King Fahd had proposed the mediation initiative during the Arab summit in Fes.

Minister of petroleum and mineral affairs Ahmad Zaki Yamani had previously stated that mediation between Syria and Iraq may lead to the reopening of the Karkuk-Baniyas and Karkuk-Tripoli pipelines earlier than expected. Syria had ordered the closure of these two pipelines on 10 April 1982. Observers have noted that Libya's broadcasting stations have stopped attacking a number of Arab countries. This is believed to be within the general direction of cleansing the Arab atmosphere. The observers expect that the coming period will witness a relaxation in the Arab relations.

CSO: 4400/130

SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER ON ECONOMY, OIL POLICY

GF270525 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 25 Dec 82 p 7

["Text" of interview with Muhammad Aba Al-Khayl, Saudi finance and national economy minister, by the British magazine "HARMONY"--place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Can your excellency summarize your economic strategy for us?

Answer: We are now in the middle of our third development plan; our goals during the three development plans which we began implementing during the last decade concentrate on developing and diversifying the productive economic sectors, providing opportunity for all people for education and medical care, and completing and enlarging the infrastructure which includes housing and general services for better life in cities and villages. We can say that these are our main goals.

Naturally, priorities in each of the three development plans must differ. However, Saudi Arabia's strategy can be described as trying to turn the country's economic foundation from oil exports and traditional agriculture to a wide economic foundation, modern productive agriculture and an extensive series of services similar to those which we see in the industrial world.

Question: Are you proceeding forward with these plans?

Answer: So far we have achieved good progress; many infrastructure projects have been established. These projects are geared toward modernization and they will facilitate other goals.

Question: Most economists expect Saudi Arabia's growth to drop during the next 2 or 3 years. Do you think that these speculations will come true?

Answer: Saudi Arabia's economic growth depends on the world's economy which is now growing at a remarkably low rate. The OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] countries had a growth of 3.5 percent per annum in the 1970's. During the past 3 years, they could

achieve a growth of only 1.2 percent, one-third of the previous one. The United States, for example, had an annual growth of 3 percent during the 1970's but it seems that it will not achieve any growth during the 1980-1982 period. If the world's economy only achieves a slow growth, as expected, this will inevitably affect Saudi Arabia's economy.

Another thing must be taken into consideration: This country has been busy, during the past 20 years, making a huge investment into the infrastructure. This investment has begun to bear fruit. The kingdom will witness a new stage of development in which the infrastructure will become less important.

Question: Some Saudis have criticized oil production and described it as very high. Are they now happy with the current production rate?

Answer: Oil which we need depends on market factors. We believe that if someone views our policy from all angles, he will find that our oil policy is truly wise. Perhaps our children will have less oil. However, we believe that this overall conditions will be better and perhaps revenues from more oil will be spent unprofitably. Nevertheless, it will lead to more economic development for our citizens. Do not forget that we still have the largest reserves in relation to production rate than any other producer.

CSO: 4400/130

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT--Riyadh, Dec 25, SPA--A royal decree today gave royal approval to the statutes of the general intelligence department. The decree also empowered the deputy prime minister and the cabinet to do anything needed to put the decree into effect. [Text] [LD260554 Riyadh SPA in English 1501 GMT 25 Dec 82 LD]

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DECREE--Royal Decree No M/5 was issued on 21 December 1982 approving the statutes of the command [Ri'ash] of the general intelligence. [Text] [GF252018 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Dec 82]

PRIVATE SECTOR IMPORTS--Riyadh, 17 Dec (WAKH)--The value of the total imports financed by commercial banks in Saudi Arabia during 1981-1982 is 58.58 billion Saudi riyals, a 13 percent rise from the previous year's imports. [GF180730 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 Dec 82 GF]

WHEAT CROP--Riyadh--Saudi Arabia's wheat crop for the 1983 season is expected to be between 500,000 and 600,000 tonnes, enough to cover all the country's requirements of the crop. The figure indicates the dramatic progress Saudi agriculture has made in the last 5 years, mainly by irrigating larger areas and improving yields. The 1977 wheat crop was only 3,000 tonnes. It then rose at an annual rate of over 260 percent to 400,000 tonnes this last season. The kingdom hopes eventually to make itself self-sufficient in all types of food. [Text] [GF191110 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 19 Dec 82 p 4 GF]

CSO: 4400/130

UAE INFORMATION MINISTER DISCUSSES INDIAN OCEAN

GF171122 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] The UAE wants the Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace, "without the military presence of any power."

Information Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamad to UNI [expansion unknown] in Abu Dhabi said that the security and stability of the Indian Ocean states, including those on the gulf, could be best ensured with the absence of super-power fleets. "It is a concern of our own people only," he stressed.

Shaykh Ahmad said the UAE president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, had laid out a "clear policy of peace and friendship with all countries, including neighbours," and that this perspective matched the goals of the non-aligned movement, the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council and the United Nations. Militiaisation of the area was against these goals.

He said the UAE shared India's concern at the growing strength of military fleets in and around the Indian Ocean states, as declared in the Indo-UAE joint communique issued at the end of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to the Emirates last year.

Shaykh Ahmad said the Arabs were not happy at the continuing Iran-Iraq war as "two Muslim brothers who should be training their guns at Israel, were wasting their strength against each other."

Describing the 27-month-old conflict as "needless," he said the UAE was doing its best to help end the war.

Shaykh Ahmad praised the nonaligned movement for its support to the Palestinian people and said countries like India were doing a lot to bolster their cause for an independent homeland.

He was sure that the coming nonaligned summit at New Delhi would help strengthen the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its continuing fight against the Israeli expansionists.

About the assistance being given by the UAE to the Palestinians, Shaykh Ahmad said "the UAE was doing its duty and would do it to its best."

Shaykh Ahmad said the UAE was keen to promote an exchange of information with developing countries and plans were underway to post WAM correspondents in a number of these countries.

Shaykh Ahmad said by next week, two medium-wave radio stations of 50 KW each would be commissioned for broadcasts in the gulf.

Two other major projects were underway to transmit broadcasts to the countries of the region and the world.

Shaykh Ahmad said that most of the country was already covered by a television network. Work would start soon for the western region which was still not on the UAE television map.

CSO: 4400/139

BRIEFS

UAE GOVERNMENT SPENDINGS--The UAE Central Bank has issued the statistical data that sums up the UAE Federal Government's spendings for the first 9 months of 1982. According to the data the total spendings reached 14.28 billion dirhams out of which 12.96 billion dirhams were spent on current projects, 1.01 billion dirhams were spent on development expenses and 305.7 million dirhams were spent on the government's unscheduled participation in the activities of a certain ministry. [Text] [GF111512 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 11 Dec 82]

QUAKE VICTIMS RECEIVE DONATION--Abu Dhabi, 15 Dec (WAKH)--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan has ordered the dispatch of urgent financial aid to the tune of 10 million dirhams to the Yar. The aid is a contribution toward the rescue of the victims of the earthquake which struck the Yar on 13 December and toward assisting the stricken families. [Text] [GF151950 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1925 GMT 15 Dec 82]

TELEPHONE LINK WITH BAHRAIN, QATAR--The UAE, Bahrain and Qatar signed in Abu Dhabi today a contract for constructing a sea cable for telephone communications among them. The overall cost of this project is \$47 million. [Text] [GF191148 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Dec 82]

ADNOC PRODUCTS--Abu Dhabi, 28 Dec (WAM)--Abu Dhabi National Oil Company [ADNOC] has begun the first stages of construction of a unit to produce basic oils with an annual production capacity of 200 thousand tons, and another unit to produce asphalt with an annual production capacity of 100 thousand tons for local consumption and export. [Text] [GF290500 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Dec 82]

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROMOTIONS--The cabinet has approved the following Foreign Ministry promotions: 'Abdallah Rashid an-Nu'aymi, counsellor in the permanent UAE delegation in Geneva; 'Abd al-'Al Humaydan, counsellor in the UAE Embassy in Muscat; 'Abd ar-Rida 'Abdallah, deputy director of the economic department at the Foreign Ministry; Hashim Husayn al-Musawi, deputy chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Sulayman Musa al-Jasim, chief of the Amiri Court in Al-Fujayrah; Muhammad ibn Dahi, director of legislation in Dubai; and Yusuf 'abd al-Khaliq, counsellor at the Foreign Ministry, have been promoted to the rank of minister plenipotentiary. Hilal Sa'id az-Zu'abi, counsellor at the UAE Embassy in Austria, has been promoted consul general in Bombay and will succeed Ibrahim Jawad, who has been appointed ambassador to Bangladesh. Dawud as-Siksik, has been promoted from minister plenipotentiary to ambassador. [Text] [GF311738 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 31 Dec 82 p 1]

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

EARTHQUAKE FINAL TOLL--The final casualty toll in the earthquake which north Yemen last month was 1,588 dead and 1,604 wounded, according to the San'a' newspaper ATH-THAWRAH. Earlier official and press reports had put the toll as high as 20,000 dead and many more injured. The newspaper said the earthquake, which measured over five on the open-ended Richter scale, flattened 7,897 houses and caused damage to another 19,444. Many of the injured had not yet been treated and the country had received enough tents only for half of the estimated 200,000 people living in the open. [Text]
[GF040458 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 4 Jan 83 p 2]

CSO: 4400/128

IRAN

PREMIER RESPONDS TO 'ABSURDITIES' PUBLISHED BY 'ZIONIST MEDIA'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi took part in an exclusive interview with and responded to the questions of the correspondent of the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY. In response to the point that the Israeli ambassador to the United States has once again mentioned the absurd claim of an arms sale by the Zionist regime to Iran and to the aim of the spread of this rumor once again, the prime minister said: After the revolutionary stance of the Majlis and the government, which declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to pay if the United States refuses to pay the sum it is supposed to contribute to the International Atomic Energy Organization, naturally, we must expect such propaganda by the Zionist and imperialist circles against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In my opinion, this stance so enraged the U.S. statesmen and their dependent media that they began to spread certain rumors. For instance, they say that Iran has not paid its dues to the International Atomic Energy Organization or they spread rumors concerning the sale of arms by Israel to Iran by quoting the ambassador of the Zionist regime to the United States. What is noteworthy and may stem from the blindness of the forces of oppression is that they have shown their true nature in spreading such rumors. For instance, the WEST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY states that of course, Israel has never overlooked the main objective of Iran and that the Jews are well aware that the regime of Iran has the liberation of Jerusalem inscribed on its flag. With this statement, they show their deep animosity towards the regime of the Islamic Republic. In fact, with this statement, they show to what extent they have realized our threat to overthrow the occupying regime in Jerusalem. In this news item, two important points are worthy of note: First, the emphasis is placed on the Jews; no mention is made of the Zionists in order that they may pretend that Israel is supported by and represents the Jewish religion. The plundering Zionists and the mercenaries of the United States, on the other hand, have tried to provoke worldwide public opinion. Naturally and logically, all people oppose racist motivations, which is why our regime has always declared its

opposition to Zionism and has painted Israel as a cancerous tumor, as the leader of the revolution has said.

The prime minister added: In any case, I think that this statement of Israel should put to an end the rumors that they have spread and in which they have invested heavily. He has idiotically exposed the role of Israel in the creation of these rumors. Interestingly, another news item quoted from the "AP" relates that the statements of the Israeli ambassador are the first relating the arms deal with the joint efforts of the United States and Israel to overthrow Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Arens, the ambassador of Israel, has also stated that the leader of the Islamic revolution desires the destruction of Israel and the retrieval of Jerusalem for the Islamic world. In the light of these issues, I think that our media must clarify the issue for the people. Also, our embassies should carefully study and evaluate the point as a document provided by the enemy and in relations with various countries and diplomats, they should make use of this issue as a means to show the revolutionary policies of the Islamic Republic to overthrow the Zionist regime.

Concerning the aim of the recent statements of Saddam in this regard, the prime minister said: These are all related. Also, the statement of Arens illustrates his absolute support for this individual. Here, we see that despite the fact that they had carefully planned to make our country appear vulnerable in the eyes of the oppressed people of the world by accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of purchasing arms from Israel, with the statement of this Israeli official, the considerable investment and planning they had undertaken for a period of a year and a half have all gone to waste.

Concerning the announcement of the regime of Iraq that because of the period of Moharram it will accept 1,000 Iranian families as pilgrims to the holy shrines, provided they are over 60 or under 14 years of age, the prime minister said: The regime of Saddam is presently under strong attack and pressure from within and in order to divert the public opinion of the Iraqi nation and to make Iran appear belligerent, it tries to make use of this weapon. But such tricks are no longer effective. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has declared frequently that it is prepared to accept all the families of the Iraqi prisoners. But the Ba'thist regime of Iraq has refused because it has felt that this issue might result in a deep rift within Iraq and seriously threaten the whole of the Ba'thist regime of Saddam.

The prime minister added: Raising the issue of accepting the 1,000 families during the month of Moharram when the Muslim people of Iraq are sympathetic to the regime of the Islamic Republic is an attempt to make Saddam's regime appear to the Iraqi nation a

religious one interested in religious issues and standards. But this is an act of weakness and the people of Iraq are quite aware of the goals behind it.

Concerning the situation of Kharg Island and loading, the prime minister said: Presently, we are in the best possible position with regard to exports. Here, I announce that Iraq's recourse to irregular means in this area has accomplished nothing and will, undoubtedly, accomplish nothing. He added: We have always said that our country relies on belief and faith before it relies on this issue [of oil]. In conclusion, he said: It is not oil which makes a country victorious but the faith of an alert nation, which enables it to stand against all the worldwide oppressive conspiracies without bowing to them and to overcome all problems.

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